



Lithuania to get more gas

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin has agreed to restore supplies of a limited amount of natural gas to Lithuania, starting this weekend, politicians here said. The move is an attempt by Moscow to pave the way for talks with the republic to end its isolation. The move follows a request from Lithuania's Prime Minister Kazleuskas. Ryshkov had agreed a request from Lithuania's Prime Minister Kazleuskas for 3.5 million cubic metres of gas per day to supply a further 10 million cubic metres to Lithuania as part of an economic assistance package. The supplies will be cut from about 12 million cubic metres to 3.5 million cubic metres per day. Last week, Moscow agreed to send another 2.5 million cubic metres to help compensate for the electric energy that was no longer being produced.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Shamir sends 'friendly' letter to Mubarak

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sent Egypt shortly after naming his right-wing government that Israel still wanted good relations with its only Middle East "friend," a Shamir aide said Friday. The prime minister sent (Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak) a letter in which he reiterated Israel's good and friendly intentions towards Egypt and its desire to try and further the peace process. Shamir's media adviser Avi Pomer told Reuters. Pomer said Shamir had sent a letter to "friend Egypt" two days after the Israeli Knesset (parliament) Monday approved his coalition with far-right and religious parties. Political analysts said the letter was aimed at assuaging Egyptian impatience at Shamir's tough stance on Israel-Palestine peace talks. They said Shamir also wanted to define a new role for his government, the most hardline in Israeli history. Egypt's Al-Akhar newspaper described the new coalition as controlled "by hawks, shoulders of blood and the most mad extremists who call for war."

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Ozal meets Sharaa

ISTANBUL (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa held a meeting with Turkey's President Turgut Ozal in Istanbul Friday which officials said might have focused on border security and water issues. No official announcement was made following the meeting, before which Ozal and Sharaa refused to comment to journalists on the content of their talks. Sharaa arrived in Turkey Thursday for a three-day official visit and talks with Foreign Minister Ali Baser on strained ties between the two countries. Official sources said the two ministers exchanged views on border security and the sharing of the waters of Euphrates among Turkey and downstream Syria and Iraq.

PLO member gunned down

TYRE (R) — A member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was shot dead in a Palestinian camp near the southern Lebanese port city Tyre, the organisation said Friday. A PLO statement said Ahmad Darraz was gunned down Wednesday in the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidieh south of Tyre. The statement accused a "treacherous party" of being behind the killing to incite inter-Palestinian fighting.

Levy in hospital

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister David Levy was in good condition Friday after being hospitalised in a cardiac intensive care unit for chest pains, hospital officials said. Medical tests showed that the 57-year-old Levy "absolutely did not have a heart attack," said Dr. Uri Cantor, director of the Hachem hospital in the northern town of Afula. "There is nothing wrong with him, and we hope that he will be released as soon as possible," Cantor said. Cantor said Levy was taken to the intensive care unit because it had the best monitoring equipment.

Reformer elected Russian premier

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Federation parliament elected a moderate reformer as prime minister Friday, rejecting a radical supporter of rebel President Boris Yeltsin. Ivan Silayev, 60, an engineering specialist, won 163 of 229 votes in the parliament of the Soviet Union's most powerful republic. His victory came in a second round of voting after Yeltsin intervened to break a deadlock. In a first ballot, Silayev, who supports a gradual transition to a market economy, fell one vote short of the necessary 50 per cent, collecting 119 votes. Mikhail Gorbachev, combative proponent of rapid transition to free enterprise, won only 86 votes in a clear defeat for Yeltsin. Yeltsin then proposed supporting Silayev in the second ballot, as he had often shown independence, thinking as Soviet deputy prime minister.

Israel detains Arab poet

HAZARETH (AP) — Arab writers' groups Friday protested the arrest of poet Shafiq Habib, who was detained on suspicion that his latest collection of poems could incite anti-Israeli violence. Habib was taken from his home in the village of Deir Hanna near Nazareth last Wednesday, police spokesman Meir Levy said. The Haifa district court ordered Habib released on bail Friday but then decided to remand him in custody till Sunday to allow police time to appeal the decision, Levy said.

Kabul calls for peace forum

KABUL (R) — The Kabul government of President Najibullah launched a new diplomatic initiative with a call for a regional peace conference on Afghanistan. Since 1978, an estimated one million Afghans have been killed and five million have sought refuge abroad as the government and Mujahideen guerrillas fought for the right to rule this impoverished country.

Jordan receives \$40m from UAE

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Thursday received \$40 million in aid from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), raising to \$65 million the total Arab assistance the Kingdom has received after the extraordinary Arab summit held in Baghdad last month, an official source said Friday. The Kingdom has already received \$25 million from Iraq, which pledged \$50 million immediately after the summit, the source said. The source refused to be drawn into saying whether the \$40 million was part of a greater payment that the UAE had pledged to pay Jordan. The UAE paid \$20 million to Jordan earlier this year but that was not tied to the Baghdad summit. Jordan also received \$10 million from Qatar earlier this year, but the payment was part of that country's pledge of aid for the year 1989.

A senior official said Wednesday that Jordan had secured a "concrete pledge" of financial support from an Arab country in line with the summit's resolutions. He did not identify the country or the amount, but it was believed that he was referring to Kuwait, which is reported to have pledged \$75 million in cash and \$65 million in petroleum products.

the end of this month.

An increase in the exchange reserves will boost the Kingdom's ability to repay interests on its foreign debts. The Kingdom, which is implementing an International Monetary Fund (IMF)-approved economic restructuring programme, has successfully rescheduled part of its debts to the London and Paris clubs.

At the Baghdad summit, His Majesty King Hussein warned that Jordan would not be able to meet its financial obligations without immediate Arab assistance.

The summit pledged financial assistance to Jordan but did not make any specific commitments, leaving it to the oil-producing Arab states to determine the amounts in bilateral arrangements with the Kingdom.

Arab political sources told the Jordan Times that Iraq was spearheading efforts to increase the Gulf states' assistance to Jordan.

According to the senior official, the total amount of Arab financial assistance to Jordan so far this year, including the earlier UAE payment and the pledge from the unnamed country, is above \$200 million. The 1990 fiscal budget projects a total Arab aid of \$360 million but senior officials have expressed confidence that the actual receipts would be much higher.

Saudi Arabia, a regular and principal contributor of aid to Jordan, has said that it would continue to help Jordan but has not specified the amount of assistance it would extend to Amman this year.

Senior officials estimate that Jordan needs \$1 billion a year in financial assistance from rich Arab countries to maintain a healthy economic and defensive balance and to service its debts without default for the next several years.

According to banking sources, the UAE payment should help raise Jordan's foreign exchange reserves, which stood at \$490 million last month, including \$360 million in obligatory commercial bank deposits and \$100 million in deposits from Gulf central banks under a reciprocity arrangement. The Kingdom expects to receive another \$100 million in Gulf central bank deposits before

Envoy begins mission Wednesday U.N. chief deplores Israeli violence at Gaza clinic

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday deplored the throwing of a tear-gas grenade by Israeli forces into a maternity and children's clinic in the Gaza Strip this week.

A protest was lodged with Israeli authorities by United Nations officials in the area. The secretary-general's office also announced that his special emissary, Jean-Claude Aime, would leave Sunday for a visit to the Israeli-occupied territories to investigate the deteriorating situation and reports of abuses of Palestinians.

The visit will last about one week. There was no confirmation of visits to other nations, although there has been speculation that Aime might visit Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

A statement by the secretary-general's office said he "strongly deplores this incident in which so

many innocent civilians, and in particular infants and young children, were injured" Tuesday morning in Gaza town.

A report from the U.N. Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees said that Tuesday morning many women and infants were gathered at the UNRWA Rimal Health Centre. Stones were thrown at Israeli forces, and a young man was chased by a security patrol into the health centre.

"Members of the patrol physically abused some of the staff of the health centre and patients," the UNRWA report said. Patients then began shouting and throwing stones at members of the patrol after it withdrew from the health centre, the report said.

A UNRWA international staff member spoke to an Israeli officer at the scene, urged restraint and noted the site was a health

centre.

"He was also abused and the officer threw a tear-gas grenade over the wall of the health centre," the U.N. report said.

The grenade fell and exploded at the open door of the waiting room of the mother-child health section of the centre where 100 to 200 women and infants had gathered, the report said.

The women fled with their infants into the open and sought treatment for tear-gas. Many were treated at the scene, and 56 infants and one four-year-old were treated at a nearby hospital. Eight adults also received treatment, the U.N. report said.

The European Parliament Thursday condemned Israel for what it called bloody repression, and called for an international inquiry into human rights violations in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Kuwaiti oilmen to strike

NICOSIA (R) — Thousands of oil workers are expected to strike in Kuwait Sunday but their action will not affect Kuwait's giant oil and petrochemical industries, a Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) official said Friday.

"Production and exports will continue as normal. We have taken all measures against the strike however long it is and its effects will be null," the official told Reuters by telephone from Nicosia.

Hamad Sowayan, head of Kuwait's Union of Oil and Petrochemical Workers, said he expected more than 17,000 workers to take part in the rare strike in the country which produces about 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd).

Sowayan said the decision to strike for one day on Sunday came after his union failed to persuade the government to agree to a pay rise better working conditions.

"The stoppage will be comprehensive, affecting all sectors of the oil and petrochemical industry," he said in a telephone interview.

But the KPC official, who declined to be named, said he doubted the union could muster enough support to disrupt Kuwait's giant oil industry.

E. Germany detains 7 major RAF suspects

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany, long a haven for fugitive Western guerrillas, seized seven suspected West German guerrillas Friday, officials said.

West Germany had sought them as members of the Red Army Faction (RAF) guerrilla group for over a decade.

Four RAF suspects were arrested early in the day, then three more, including a couple believed to have masterminded a string of murders, officials said.

An East German Interior Ministry spokesman said suspected RAF guerrillas Barbara and Horst Meyer and Sabine-Eike Calsen were seized in Leipzig.

Earlier Interior Minister Peter Michael Dietzel said East German police, working closely with authorities in the West, arrested four suspects in a series of lightning raids.

Nine members of the group have been arrested in East Germany in just 10 days.

Security officials believe the Meyers led the guerrillas in the 1980s and are prime suspects in all major RAF attacks in recent years, including the murders of leading businessmen and a senior government official in West Germany.

many's most powerful bankers, Deutschebank chief Alfred Herrhausen.

A Leipzig criminal office spokesman said the Meyers and Calsen were arrested in the morning at a train station.

Of the first four, three were detained but one was freed for lack of evidence against her, police said.

During its heyday in the 1970s the RAF terrorised West Germany with a spate of bombings, political murders and bank robberies.

The Meyers are believed to have taken over when most of the group's leaders were killed or jailed in the early 1980s.

West German police believe some 30 members sought refuge in then-communist East Germany. Around 20 are still at large after Friday's arrests.

Inge Veit, wanted for murder and kidnapping, was arrested in East Germany earlier this week and Susanne Albrecht, accused of involvement in the murder of a Frankfurt banker in 1977, a few days earlier.

Israelis destroy 4 Arab homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army bulldozed the homes of four Palestinians in the occupied territories Thursday night, reports said Friday.

Military and Palestinian sources say a total of six Arab homes have been destroyed by the army since a right-wing government took power in Israel Monday.

Four others were sealed to prevent the families of activists from using them.

From the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987 to May 23 the army demolished 299 Arab homes and sealed 187, according to official Israeli figures. The activists were, in most cases, in detention.

Gaza residents said a total of 55 people lived in three houses destroyed Thursday night in Tel Al Sultan housing project near the Gaza Strip town of Rafah.

They were the homes of Yusef Al Najjar, 19, Imad Al Din Nasr, 22, and Zakariya Othman, 24, who have all been in detention since August on charges of killing suspected informers. Military sources said they belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The army also demolished

Thursday a house in the West Bank village of Sarrah, near Nablus, belonging to an Arab accused of attacking Israeli army vehicles, Jewish settlements and suspected collaborators.

In the Gaza Strip village of Abassan Wednesday night the army destroyed the home of Mohammed Abu Sakra, who was accused of belonging to Fatah.

A house was destroyed Monday at Jelazzoun refugee camp near Ramallah in the West Bank.

Armed police backed by water cannon stood guard in the heart of west Jerusalem Friday after a night of rioting sparked by the stabbing of a Jewish boy.

Hundreds of stone-throwing Israelis chanting "Death to the Arabs" stormed Arab districts of Jerusalem overnight after the stabbing.

Doctors said Idan Mizrahi, 12, was likely to be released from hospital Sunday after being attacked at a bus stop on the border between the Jewish Armon Hamatziv neighbourhood and the Arab district Sur Bahir.

Witnesses said angry Jews, some urged on by activists of the anti-Arab Kach movement, rampaged for hours during the night through Sur Bahir and nearby Jabal Munkaber, stoning houses and cars and burning fields.

Police first said they suspected an Arab woman and sealed off Sur Bahir while they questioned some 200 women suspects. They released them all, saying later they had no evidence the attacker was female or even an Arab.

Children who saw the stabbing said the assailant had a woman's hairstyle but ran like a man, suggesting it could have been a man in a wig.

Kach leader Meir Kahane and a handful of supporters staged a protest rally in Jerusalem's city centre Friday calling for all Arabs to be expelled from Israel and the occupied territories.

In the West Bank town of Bethlehem, Israeli forces shot and wounded an 18-year-old resident during an operation.

Relatives of Jamil Ghattas said he was shot in the back by two Israeli security men. He was operated on in an Israeli hospital in Jerusalem.

Military sources said a masked youth carrying a bat was wounded during a military operation in the town.

An Israeli military court sentenced a Palestinian journalist to 45 months in jail Friday, Arab sources said.

They said Samean Khoury, 40, was charged with being a member of the unified leadership of the

uprising. He has been in Israeli detention since February 1989.

'Punishment eased'

The Israeli army Thursday reduced the sentence of an officer who tear-gassed 160 babies inside a U.N. maternity clinic in the occupied Gaza Strip this week, drawing international condemnation of the army.

The officer was jailed for 10 days after the incident on Tuesday in which he hurled a tear-gas grenade into a United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) clinic.

He said Palestinian activists inside the hospital had been throwing stones from windows.

UNRWA said about 160 babies were affected by the gas. The Israeli army had put the number at 66.

In response to an appeal for leniency from the officer, his commander reduced the punishment to a 21-day suspended sentence on Thursday. It was not clear whether he had been released.

UNRWA headquarters in Vienna Thursday denounced the tear-gassing of the babies as "an inappropriate use of force against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip."

American envoy-to-be underlines Jordan's key role

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Jordan continues to play a key role in the Middle East, says U.S. Ambassador-designate Roger Gran Harrison. "That is never more evident than in times like these, when tensions in the area rise," he explains.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Thursday in a confirmation hearing on his nomination as the new U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Harrison said that while His Majesty King Hussein in recent months has been occupied with internal problems, "when we get to the negotiating stage of the peace process, he will again be a key player."

"Jordan, under the leadership of King Hussein, has been a force for moderation in the area, and a necessary buffer between the often competing interests of other, more powerful states," Harrison said.

Maintaining the independence and integrity of his nation, while engaged in a very difficult process of nation-building, has been the King's great achievement, he said.

Asked about Jordan's position on the issue of the emigration of Soviet Jews, Harrison said, "The King has made several statements indicating he thinks there is a danger that Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel will displace Palestinians on the West Bank and force them out." However, he said, the King has indicated that he favours their right to emigrate "so long as it does not interfere with the rights of others."

He said that in the last year and a half, King Hussein had had to deal with "a full agenda" domestically, with the liberalisation and economic reforms he has set in motion. "It takes great courage to do both things at the same time... He's been weathering that storm, but of necessity, he has turned his eyes temporarily inward."

But when negotiations begin once again, "the King is going to be at the forefront," he added.

"From the PLO point of view, the King's role has got to be to provide a kind of confederation in which some Palestinian entity can emerge. The King is not now at the moment agreeable to that role," Harrison said.

Asked by committee chairman Patrick Moynihan to assess the prospects of peace in the region, and mounting reports that a climate of war is building in the region, Harrison recounted an old Middle East adage: "If you aren't moving forward, you are moving backward."

"I don't predict it," Harrison said, but added that "radicals are always with us, always looking for opportunities to sharpen confrontation."

He said, "The peace process has been a real barrier against those forces and a support to the moderates in the region that favour negotiation."

"If we now have to abort the peace process — which certainly won't be

U.S. backs down from harsh criticism of Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House has insisted it did not hold Israel responsible for blocking peace talks in the Middle East, but admitted it has some questions about the commitment to peace by all parties in the region.

"We are very careful not to point, to take sides and to place blame and so forth," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said when asked about Secretary of State James Baker's scolding of Israel in congressional testimony.

But, asked whether "there is a serious question within the administration about whether the Israeli government wants peace," Fitzwater replied: "There is a question, certainly, on both sides."

Pressed for clarification, the spokesman said the doubts applied to "all parties."

Baker Wednesday bluntly criticised new Israeli conditions for talks with Palestinian representatives and said the United States would halt its effort to get peace talks going unless Yitzhak Shamir's new government showed

some flexibility.

"When you're serious about peace, call us," Baker said.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Baker had meant his invitation to apply to all Middle Eastern parties, not just Israel.

"I have asked him, and I have said did you mean to pinpoint specifically the Israelis. His answer to me was I intended the phone number to be used by all," she said.

Fitzwater said the remarks, in which Baker gave out the White House phone number for use by the Israelis, did not signal U.S. animosity toward Israel.

"Israel is a strong and loyal ally of the United States. They're going to continue to be one, a staunch friend. We will not change that policy one iota. And we simply point out that they have got to want the peace process for it to move forward," he said.

Despite Fitzwater's comments, Baker's remarks were widely viewed in Washington as a slap at Israel, which has irked the Bush

administration by its refusal to negotiate with Palestinian representatives.

Baker, in his testimony to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that in working 11 months on a plan to bring Israelis and Palestinians into direct talks "we got extraordinarily close," only to meet resistance from Israel.

U.S.-Israeli ties have been damaged by a frosty personal relationship between Shamir and President Bush, who feels he was deliberately misled by the Israeli leader about settlements in the occupied West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Bush provoked a storm in Israel in March when he said at a news conference he opposed Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem. U.S. leaders have traditionally glossed over the status of East Jerusalem, while condemning settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Bush's remark was widely viewed as a major factor in the collapse in March of the Israeli government.

(Continued on page 2)

Iliescu orders miners to leave Bucharest, but tension runs high

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — President-elect Ion Iliescu ordered thousands of miners home Friday who had come to Bucharest at his behest and attacked anti-government demonstrators.

But scores of miners still roamed central Bucharest an hour later, clabbing government opponents as well as passers-by and shoppers.

The state news agency Rompres said Iliescu ordered the miners to leave during a meeting Friday with miners' leaders in Bucharest.

The Rompres report did not indicate why Iliescu ordered the miners home. Iliescu had called the miners to Bucharest to show support for his government during anti-government demonstrations this week.

Authorities Friday began to put the miners on buses bound for Bucharest's northern railway station so they could return on special trains to their homes. The miners are from the Jiu Valley mining region of western Romania, Rompres said.

But on Boulevard Magheru, the central street leading from university square, scores of miners armed with wooden clubs hit Iliescu opponents, as well as passers-by and shoppers.

People watching from balconies overlooking the boulevard whistled and shouted anti-government slogans. Those on the sidewalk jeered as they fled

the marauding miners.

More police were on the streets and military police ringed University Square, a focal point of violence in which at least five people were killed and more than 100 injured this week.

Miners wielding clubs continued to question, and sometimes rough up, people they suspected of being opponents of Iliescu and his National Salvation Front (NSF) government.

Opposition leaders Ion Ratiu and Radu Campeanu, defeated by Iliescu in presidential elections last month, said armed men had entered their homes.

Ratiu, who was candidate of the National Peasant Party in the elections, told British television that he was briefly seized by 20 miners who ransacked his home in Bucharest during the night.

Campeanu, leader of the National Liberal Party, said his home had been searched in his absence.

He demanded that all the miners brought to Bucharest "should be disarmed and leave the capital as soon as possible, so the population should no longer be terrorised."

In a statement, he called for an end to identity checks by "organised bands" on people in the streets and in their homes.

There was no explanation why some miners came back into the capital, where they broke into the university building which they

had already ransacked.

The area was quiet before their return, with traffic in the streets and people walking on Magheru Boulevard.

Reuters reporters saw about 500 miners waiting for trains at Bucharest's north station.

But miners were also rushing back into the city centre in buses, trucks, cars and taxis, shouting, "We protect you, we protect you."

Apart from more traffic in the streets, there were few signs that the atmosphere was easing in the Romanian capital.

New Interior Minister Dorel Ursu started a dialogue with student groups and told state radio later: "There is a mutual need for information."

He was appointed to replace Mihai Chitac Thursday after police failed to check the first wave of anti-government protest Wednesday.

The Independent newspaper Romania Libera was not published after print workers and miners objected to its criticism of the government. Journalists were discussing whether they would be able to put out an edition Saturday.

Five people were killed in the two days of violence, two of them shot, the government said. More than 460 were injured and 112 were in hospital, including Marian Munteanu, a student leader.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese minister ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Chinese Defence Minister Qin Jiwei wound up a several day official visit to Jordan, Thursday, during which he had an audience with His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the chief of staff Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb and visited a number of military, cultural and tourist sites in Jordan. Upon departure, he was seen off by Gen. Abu Taleb and senior military officers, as well as the Chinese ambassador to Jordan and the Chinese military attaché to Jordan.

Ministry floats powder milk prices

AMMAN (Petra) — Supply Minister Nabil Abu Al Fuda took a decision to float the prices of powdered milk imported by the private sector and left the pricing of all kinds of imported powdered milk, except baby milk, to the importers, who will announce the new prices as of June 16. The minister called on all importers to announce the retail prices on the invoices issued by them to retailers.

ALECSO chief meets Jordanian envoy

TUNIS (Petra) — Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) Musare' Al Rawi received Friday Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Taha Sa'at Al Hassan, who is also Jordan's representative to the Tunis-based ALECSO, on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Tunisia. Musare' and Hassan reviewed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and ALECSO and discussed preparations for the Arab-European cultural seminar to be held in Amman in 1991. Musare' expressed appreciation for Jordan's role in supporting ALECSO and thanked Al Hassan for his efforts and cooperation for achieving the goals of the organisation.

Roads closed due to sandstorms

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Friday said that the road between Hassa and Dabas along the desert road was exposed to sandstorms, and called on all motorists using that road to drive carefully and slowly because of dust and poor visibility. The department also said the road between Jizeh and Dabas, as well as Muwaqqar-Queen Alia road were closed to traffic because of heavy dust and poor visibility.

Textiles exhibition opens

AMMAN — An exhibition entitled "Textiles from Ottoman Times" opens Saturday June 16, 1990 at 6:00 p.m. at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery. Items on display are from the private collection of Dr. Herwig Bartels, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany. The exhibition consists of an array of textiles from the Ottoman Empire dating back to the 16th - 19th centuries. Velvets and delicate silk embroideries, woolen slit tapestry rugs (kilims), pile rugs and broadcote (zilli) pieces represent a wide range of styles, textures and colors of rare quality and beauty. The exhibition runs until June 30, 1990. Gallery hours are from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday - Wednesday and from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays (closed Fridays).

Wildlife conservation law issued

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat Tuesday approved the issuance of a special regulation for the conservation of wildlife. The regulation bans the importation or exportation of wild plants or animals without prior permit from the ministry and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). Under the new regulation, the University of Jordan and the RSCN will determine the species of wild animals already extinct or those facing the danger of extinction.

USAID to grant \$10m for boosting services sector

AMMAN (Petra) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will finance a \$10 million project for developing the services sector in Jordan, with a view to upgrading its performance and enhancing its contribution to income growth.

The project will be supervised by a steering committee, chaired by a planning minister. The steering committee's duties include preparation of guidelines, approving the plan of action and making amendments thereto, and maintaining general supervision of the project's performance.


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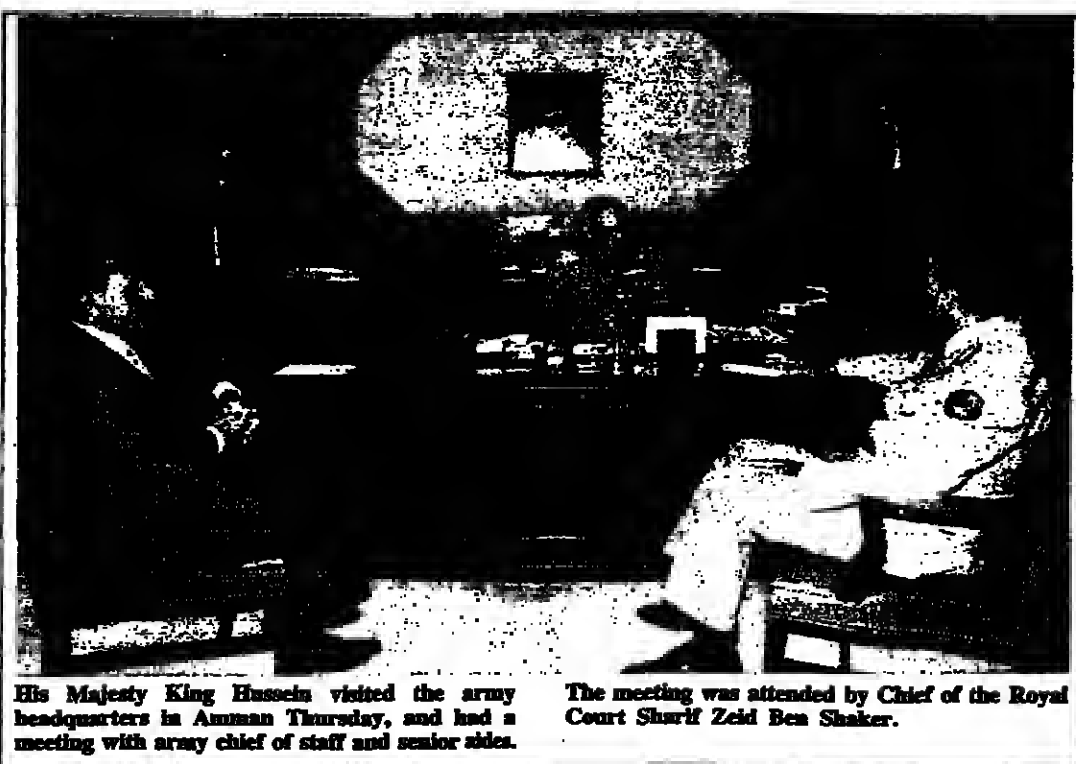
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His Majesty King Hussein visited the army headquarters in Amman Thursday, and had a meeting with army chief of staff and senior aides.

House to hold third meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold its third meeting in the current extraordinary session Saturday to continue debate on several amendments to laws.

The meeting, which is to be attended by Prime Minister Matar Badran and Cabinet members, will cover an amendment to the national (conscription) service law, which provides for expatriates to pay \$10,000 to the Jordanian treasury to acquire exemption from the national service; this is to help them not lose their jobs abroad.

According to the amendment, the Cabinet will be empowered to define the amount to be paid for such exemptions; earlier reports said that the sum will be \$10,000.

The Saturday meeting is also expected to continue a debate on the Higher Court of Justice law which began last week.

Parliament's legal committee is expected to convene on Monday, under Hussein Mjalli, to review a draft law for cancelling the National Medical Institution (NMI) a draft law on Jordanian universities and a draft law on higher education in Jordan.

WHAT'S ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Shara, Muhammad Asad and Hani Khasa'leh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La révolution 200 ans après" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ "Amman 90" photo exhibition at Amman Municipality public library.
- ★ Exhibition of orientalist paintings by two German artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by Baghdad Chamber Ensemble at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

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- QTY 1 - 1978, CASE 680E, BACK-HOE/FRONT-END LOADER
- QTY 10 - 1981, TRANSQUIP AT400, ARTICULATED 4 WHEEL DRIVE BUGGYS.
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Jordan appeals to ILO to protect Palestinian workers

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan has appealed to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to do all it can to provide protection for the Palestinian workers under occupation and for the local Arab environment and natural resources in the occupied Palestinian lands.

The call was voiced by Minister of Labour Qassem Obeidat in an address to a general ILO conference here, called to review a report by the organisation's director-general on the conditions of Palestinian workers.

"The report this year reflects aspects of the sufferings inflicted on the Palestinian people in general, and the workers in particular, at the hands of the occupation authorities which try to stifle the spirit of Palestinian resistance," said Obeidat in his address.

Injustice to the Palestinian people does not end but with an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and a termination of Israeli occupation of Arab lands, in implementation of United Nations resolutions," said the minister. He said that the Palestinian workers are exposed to all forms of human rights violations.

Obeidat referred to the report, which noted that Israeli violations had been on the increase throughout the past 23 years of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He also referred to a report filed by an ILO team, which visited the occupied territories in 1978, and drew attention to Israel's exploitation of Arab workers which, it said, caused further sufferings and hardships to the people of the occupied Arab lands.

referred to Israel's stealing of Palestinian lands and water resources and to the repressive measures against the Palestinian workers.

These measures, the minister said, are designed to thwart all attempts to reach a peaceful settlement and to deprive the Palestinian people of the right to establish an independent state in Palestine.

Obeidat drew the conference's attention to Israel's discriminatory practices against the Palestinian workers, the heavy taxes imposed on the Arab citizens and the lack of social security and health services for the Arab workers under Israeli rule.

Obeidat said that such policies have serious impact on the Arab population's economic and social life.

New social realities need new, modern methods to tackle crime

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The authorities should employ more modern methods in handling crimes and means of dealing with suspects and delinquents in view of the fact that Jordan has witnessed a major change in its political history and entered a new democratic phase where repression has been eliminated, according to a two-day symposium held in Amman last week.

The symposium, held under the title "Crime and Society," dwelt on a host of issues, including robberies, drug abuse, suicide, delinquency, and crimes in Jordan. Attended by experts on crime studies, university professors, representatives of governmental institutions and senior Public Security Department (PSD) officials, the seminar witnessed heated discussions on crimes and motives, and ways of preventing crimes. The outstanding element in the discussions, which concluded Thursday, was that there is a pressing need for urgent action on the part of the authorities; and the gathering recommended several approaches which could act as a guiding framework for the desired for action.

The conference recommended that contemporary laws be revamped to match the social change and evolution of the course of life in Jordan and that a special seminar be held to tackle the issue of juvenile delinquency in all its social and legal aspects and elements in consideration of the fact delinquents adversely affect the security and stability of the country.

Emphasising the important role of education in influencing the young generation and shaping their approach to life, the symposium, which reviewed seven working papers, called for new programmes to be implemented by the ministries of education and youth aimed at involving children and youth in activities useful to themselves and the society. The conference also stressed the importance of raising awareness among parents as well as concerned institutions that violence breeds violence and that family conflicts have a major impact on shaping children's behaviour and future.

Other recommendations issued by the symposium, organised by the Higher Council for Combating Crime in cooperation with the PSD, included: — In-depth studies on the phenomenon of crimes and means to minimise as far as possible its creeping increase. — Encouragement for scientific research in the field of crime and the provision of necessary facilities for interested researchers and analysts in coordination with high educational institutions, involving students in the study of crime. — Establishment of a centre for criminal and social research at the PSD entrusted with the task of investigating and studying the size of the crime and motives and drawing up appropriate recommendations. — Involvement of the information system and the various media in efforts to prevent crimes and delinquency; seminars and meetings should be held with a view to promoting the citizen's role in this field. — Facilitation of a more effective role for popular and voluntary committees to have more effective role in employing their energies in minimising crime and delinquency, and lessening the chances of people turned to taking up crime for whatever reason; this could be done through raising awareness among the public of the circumstances and causes which may lead to such consequences. — Close reviews, by experts in fields of education, psychology and sociology as well as police, of information related to crimes with a view to drawing up a strategy for presenting it to the public.

— Encouragement of voluntary committees to adopt guiding programmes to minimise crime occurrence, and helping those who suffer from personal crises that may lead them to committing crimes or suicide; establishing contacts between those who have problems and social counsellors is one of the major means to achieve this goal. — Measures to ensure that social and individual rights are protected when news and material on crimes are reported in the media. — Measures to enrich and enlarge reform programmes that may give more concern and attention to the involved individual's psychological, social and spiritual needs; facilities to rehabilitate those convicted and released from prison after serving sentences. — In-depth individual study of criminal cases and the circumstances which led to them and demonstrating them to the concerned courts taking into account scientific experiments and reform programmes. — Development of the National Centre for Psychological Health with additional emphasis on social rehabilitation. — Increased cooperation between the public and authorities.

Over 4,500 illegal foreign workers employed in bakeries

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour believes that nearly 5,000 foreign workers are currently employed in Jordan's bakeries and that only 130 of them hold valid work permits.

The Ministry of Labour is now seeking to deal with this problem in cooperation with the Ministry of Supply and the bakeries' owners, according to acting Minister of Labour Abdul Karim K-barit. The minister said in a statement, quoted by the local daily Sawt Al Shaab, that owners of bakeries are arguing that they could not abide by the Ministry of Labour's demand that they pay JD 100 in fees for each work permit for the non-Jordanians in their employment in conformity with a government decision.

The government decided recently that non-Jordanian Arab workers should pay JD 100, up from JD 30, except for farm labourers and nurses. Non-Arab workers pay JD 300 for their work permits annually.

The owners of bakeries contend that as the prices of the bread remain the same, they can not abide by the regulations.

"The Ministry of Labour is trying to settle the issue without raising the prices of bread in light of the pledges given by the government that the bread prices will not be changed under any circumstances," the minister said.

According to K-barit, the ministry is trying to solve the issue through cooperation with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), which is providing training to Jordanian youths to replace the foreign workers in the bakeries.

"Indeed the VTC has already graduated 100 of these youths who were promptly employed in the country's bakeries," said the minister.

The minister reported numerous violations of the Jordanian labour law and said that several false work permits have been seized from employers of foreign workers and that the ministry has discovered the presence of a number of go-betweens who secure work permits in return for certain commissions.

"Several persons have been found to be impersonating labour and employment officials in order to exact money from foreign workers and employers alike and employers resort to unorthodox means for acquiring permits for their non-Jordanian workers," K-barit reported.

Jordan, Yarmouk universities hold graduation ceremonies

IRBID (J.T.) — A total of 2,738 students graduated from Yarmouk University Thursday and received their degrees from Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein.

With the graduation of the new batch, the university has now turned out 21,000 students since its establishment in 1975. The university, which in the

1989-90 academic year had 11,500 students, gives courses through five faculties.

At the University of Jordan, a celebration was held Thursday to graduate students from the education and physical education faculties.

The degrees were distributed by university President Mahmoud Al Samra, who is expected to attend other celebrations to graduate a total of 3,912 students.

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY COMPANY LTD., AMMAN - JORDAN

TENDER INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND BIDDING

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces tender invitation No. 4/90 for the supply, erection and commissioning of a skid mounted sulphur recovery unit to recover sulphur from unburned acid gas and waste water stripper unit off gas streams.

The capacity of the proposed sulphur recovery unit is about 18 tonnes of liquid sulphur per day and the project includes the accompanying facilities as well as all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to the new installation.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12.00 p.m. Saturday 14/7/1990.

Prequalification documents should include the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor, financial references are to be provided.
2. Technical capability of the contractor including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Tenders are requested to sign a non-disclosure agreement before receiving the tender documents.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at First Circle, Jabal Amman against non-refundable JD (300) per set not later than 24/7/1990.

Offers should be submitted by qualified contractors to the company's head office not later than 12.00 p.m. Wednesday 17/7/1990.

Chairman

Jordan Times

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Season of confidence

THIS summer promises to be a good summer for Jordan's economy. With the Jordanian currency having stabilised and Arab aid resuming on a level that commensurates with the urgency of the situation, there is every reason to expect more investment in Jordanian ventures by Arabs and non-Arabs alike. Most of all, Arab and Jordanian expatriates could be projected to resume their traditional investments in Jordan. Recent statistics bear this projection out as the number of new enterprises in the country is witnessing an upsurge. Interestingly enough, confidence has a chain-reaction effect in the sense that it generates confidence and gives birth to renewed faith in the ability of the country to overcome all of its problems and stand up on its feet again. There is nothing that our enemies would like more than to have Jordanians lose faith and confidence in themselves and their country. The height of belonging is to build and invest in the country be it in a home or a farm or a business enterprise. The winners from the regeneration of faith and conviction are the Jordanian people who stand to collect the fruit of their self-confidence and hard and objective work. The government has adopted some necessary measures with a view to bolstering confidence in the country and now it is up to the people to react in kind and continue the remarkable rebuilding process that Jordan has been witnessing. This summer season is ripe to crown this process with even more positive indicators showing that the country is on the right track again.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN dailies tackled the United States position with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the light of the latest statements by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Al Ra'i referred to Baker's blaming Israel for impeding the peace process. It said the comment deserved interest, this statement does not prompt the Arab countries to jump to the conclusion that Washington is changing heart or contemplating a more realistic and balanced policy in the Middle East. What is important does not lie in mere statements of American officials, but in the actions which ought to be directed towards stopping Israeli practices in Palestine, the paper noted. It said it is rather difficult to try to interpret Baker's statement in the light of the conflicting actions on the part of the American administration, which is totally biased towards Israel in word and deed. One must not forget the unlimited assistance given to Israel and the American vetoes at the Security Council which provide the necessary protection for Israel's barbaric actions, the paper continued. Angry words, the paper said, are empty as they are not backed by any credibility or meaningful actions and because they contradict actions. James Baker should understand, said the paper, that words alone are not sufficient to stimulate the Middle East peace process and can by no means restore American credibility.

FOR THE FIRST time a U.S. Secretary of State places the blame squarely on the Jewish state for impeding the peace process, said Al Dustour in commenting on Baker's statements in Washington. The paper said one can not overlook Baker's statements about Israel and its obstruction to the process of peace, and one can only welcome such development and such courageous statements. But the paper said that the Arabs can not but show reservations and remain on their guard vis-a-vis this kind of attitude, simply because the Americans, under Zionist pressure, are most likely to swallow their words and go back on their previous attitudes and promises. Experience has taught the Arabs to be careful and to watch the actions of the U.S.-Israeli alliance intently, said the paper. As one watches the developments and hears the statements, the paper said, it must be borne in mind that the new government in Israel is bound to welcome Baker's threat that the United States would end its mediation efforts because this will clear the way for Israel to act freely. Still, the paper said, it remains to be seen whether Washington will back words by deeds, or will assume a position that could help end Israel's arrogance and lead it to the negotiating table with the Arabs.

SAWT AL SHAAB criticised the U.S. administration for adhering to its conviction that only through a strong Israel peace can be achieved in the Middle East. The paper said that over the past years as Israel was constantly being strengthened militarily by the United States its tendency towards peace continued to wane and its lust for war and expansion continued to grow. The paper said as Washington continues to brag about its commitments to the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the idea of swapping land for peace, its actions point otherwise. Statements by U.S. officials do not conform with the administration's open actions, and are considered only as a way for appeasing the Arab countries while Israel is allowed to carry on with its terrorist acts against the whole Arab Nation, the paper said. If the United States is truly committed to the cause of peace in our region, said the paper, why does it object to the idea of an international conference and continues to supply Israel with all types of weapons.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

SOMETIMES I think that the best way to express oneself in certain situations is to remain silent. For it appears that nothing you say will make your situation clearer. I think that we have reached or are about to reach this situation in our relationship with the West, and, in particular, with its leader, the United States. It is a situation where that country seems to deliberately misunderstand and misinterpret us, our situation, and our lives. It is useless to go running to our "wailing wall" at the United Nations, nor to pass more resolutions at the General Assembly. In every arena and on every level, the United States seems to be one or more steps ahead, ready and willing to foil any and every action we may contemplate. We should seriously begin to think of a long period of silence in which we will not communicate except the absolutely necessary and turn inward to contemplate our own situation, what is to be done and how.

For, in our confrontation with Israel, not only have we failed on the battlefield, but also in the political sphere as well, in spite of the tears we have shed, and the breast beating we have indulged ourselves in. Today, as was the situation two or three decades ago, we and our leaders are just as confused and disoriented as ever. We have not yet made an outline of what should be the order of our priorities.

The United States, like Britain before it, has something to do with our situation.

Twenty three years have passed since the Israel occupied the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Israel horror continues and the grim statistics depict an ugly picture of state terror exercised in the most inhuman manner while the so-called civilised world watches. Every Arab has become a human rights lawyer, an international jurist and a death statistician. Since the

A policy in the bush

intifada broke out, the Israelis, supported by the civilised world, created the following facts: It annihilated 1,190 Palestinians, among them 146 children, and 30 young men perished while being tortured. In the latter case Israel claims they committed suicide. Eighty six thousand were wounded and 25,000 arrested. Israel confiscated about 52 per cent of the lands of the West Bank and about 33 per cent of the Gaza Strip. In the meantime it also uprooted almost 200,000 olive and fruit trees and detonated and demolished or sealed many homes. You see, Israel hates the olive tree as it stands as a symbol for peace. The statistics go on and on including U.N. resolutions 60 vetoes cast by the United States to the benefit of Israel.

While the Arab World continues its slide backwards, Israel slides further to the right and into a primitive barbaric mentality that immunised itself against logic and humanity; the Shamirists, Sharonists, Levingers and Kahanes of the Israeli right having succeeded in attracting the American right and aligning itself with it.

And yet we continue to seek help from the West, from America, when in fact we should turn inward and attempt to rebuild ourselves. We do need a period of silence from the terrific din and the nonsense that has been going on for so long. It is not a luxury but a matter of life and death.

We must stop the sad melodies and the drum beating that accompanies it. We were told that in fact President Bush is really quantitatively and qualitatively better than Reagan. When one dares to ask, how, heads, "wise" heads, look at you accusingly and knowingly for, in their infinite wisdom, only they know and anyone who dares ask, must truly be either a radical, a trouble shooter,

fundamentalist or maybe even a communist, though this last category is quickly fizzing out.

The fact is that real deterioration occurred since Bush. The situation has never been more desperate or volatile. While the talk from the Bush administration sounds good on occasion, it is quickly retreated from "No settlements in East Jerusalem, well... we don't know... maybe... why not... you should negotiate directly with each other." What happened to Baker's five point plan? What happened to the mealy resolution regarding a United Nations team in the occupied territories?

In fact there is real retreat: For the Arab-Israeli conflict was removed from the stove altogether. At least earlier it was on the back burner. The double standard continues and the United States continues to provide the umbrella covering Israeli atrocities while aid, military, economic and political continues to flow. For the benefit of Israel and under the slogan of human rights the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics finally succumbed to the lure of the mighty Zionist lobby of the United States. Today, June 2, 1990, just three days before the grim anniversary of the 1967 war, Mr. Gorbachev was joking with and teasing Henry Kissinger. Why do we have to pay the price of detente like we once paid the price of Hitler's crimes?

In the meanwhile, great pressure, relentless pressure, is maintained against Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Libya and Iraq as well as Syria and the entire Arab Nation. No one stops to think that the so-called peace process has been nothing but a process of procrastination, manoeuvring and postponement. Delay tactics designed to hypnotise, even sedate just long enough to give Israel the time it needs to create new facts and new realities. When will Israel prey again?

Kuwait gives Gulf a whiff of political freedom

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwait's newly-elected national assembly marks the return of the country to a form of political freedom which disappeared four years ago at the height of the Iraq-Iran war.

The freedom, unremarkable in the West, is unmatched in the Gulf region where there is little if any tolerance for unofficial political activity.

Despite opposition activists' charges that Kuwait's new assembly would be both toothless and calls for a boycott of Sunday's poll, 62.26 per cent of the electorate turned out to vote, according to Kuwait newspapers.

"I believe our democratic practices irritate some of our neighbours," a top government official told Reuters recently without specifying which neighbours he meant.

"But we consistently assure everyone that whatever happens here is our business and has nothing to do with them."

Kuwait, a country of vast wealth based on oil, and only 1.7 million people, has known parliamentary politics as part of life since independence from Britain in 1961.

Polls to elect 50 of the assembly's 75 deputies were not held on a party basis — political parties are banned under a 1962 constitution — and none of the 348 contestants advocated anything resembling an election platform.

"It was mostly 'I Love Kuwait' and 'I want to serve my country' for all candidates," commented one Western diplomat on the hundreds of interviews published by the press in the run-up to the

polls, Kuwait's first since 1985.

The house elected in 1985 was disbanded by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah one year later, citing a foreign conspiracy to destabilise the country. At the time Kuwait was being affected by the Gulf war, its ships and terminals being attacked and bomb attacks being carried out in the city.

The four-year assembly, according to the government, will not be a substitute to the Majlis Al Umma provided for in the constitution as the country's parliament.

It says the assembly will review in closed sessions past parliamentary experiences and make non-binding recommendations on how to formulate a healthy government-legislators relation.

Elections for a new Majlis Al Umma are due in 1994, but it is widely expected that they could be held earlier.

The assembly, to which the emir will appoint 25 members, will hold its inaugural session before July 10 when a new government led by Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah will be sworn in.

Sheikh Saad, the emir's cousin and heir apparent since 1977, has held the premiership for more than 12 years.

The assembly will also debate the government's performance but, still, can only make non-binding recommendations. In keeping with procedure in Western-style democracies, Sheikh Saad and his government resigned Tuesday, one day after elections took place. The emir reappointed him on Wednesday to head a new government.

Fundamentalist victory in Algeria — A message to the Middle East

By John Fullerton
Reuters

CAIRO — An upset result in Algeria's first free polls has shown as never before in the Arab World the powerful appeal of Muslim fundamentalism for people given a chance to vote after years of one-party secular rule.

It is bound to raise the hopes of Islamic movements from the Atlantic to the Gulf. Most are already making headway, although few have had such an opportunity to prove their strength at the ballot box.

Others, however, will read it as a warning that experiments in democracy may be only stepping stones from the sort of illiberal regime to another.

In Jordan, where the first general election in 22 years also produced an Islamic surprise last November, the Muslim Brotherhood hailed the Algerian vote as "a very natural result."

"This is the true reflection of the aspiration of Muslims to return to their origins and their cultural identity," Brotherhood spokesman Abdul Latif Arabiyat told Reuters.

Restlessness and desperation in the Islamic World did not come from a vacuum, but from the people's desperate search for rights and freedom.

"We hope Algeria's path will be followed by Arab and Muslim rulers to give people freedom to express themselves," he said. Dr. Mahmoud Al Zahar, a

leading Islamic activist in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, told Reuters: "I think you can see the same trend throughout the Islamic World."

It reflects the failure of secularism to fulfill the social, economic and political demands, the failure of anything other than Islam to fill the spiritual space, and the loss of dignity of the Arab Nation.

"I think if there were really free elections, the Islamic movement would be the big power in the whole Islamic area."

The Algerian returns were indeed repeated on a miniature scale Wednesday when fundamentalists won control of the staff council of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Gaza Strip.

The vote was a surprise because UNRWA, the biggest employer in the Gaza Strip, has long been regarded as a bastion of secular Palestinian nationalism.

Fundamentalism means different things to different people, but fundamentalists share a belief that adherence to the word of God, represented by the Koran, offers the best cure for the ills of the 20th century.

Iran, where fundamentalism astonished the world with the Islamic revolution of 1979, is now wearing by economic crisis and its long war with Iraq and has lost momentum since the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini a

month.

The strength of Jordan's Islamic movement became apparent in November's election.

Running on the slogan "Islam is the solution" the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamicists won a third of the seats in the Lower House of Parliament, forming the biggest bloc.

Algeria's North African neighbours, Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya, all show signs of growing Islamic activism.

Fundamentalists are the strongest opposition force in Tunisia but boycotted local elections last weekend, saying the rules were unfair.

In Sudan, Africa's largest country in area, an army junta which seized power last year has taken on an increasingly fundamentalist complexion.

Gulf Arab states have kept tight Islamic regulations banning alcohol and requiring women to cover themselves, that were adopted during the 1980s in response to Iran's brand of revolutionary Islam.

But Gulf rulers have made certain that fundamentalist groups gain no political foothold.

Syria's socialist President Hafez Al Assad has kept fundamentalism firmly suppressed since 1982, when several thousand people were killed in a Muslim Brotherhood revolt.

In Turkey, Muslim sentiment has gained growing influence in a political system that was aggressively secularised nearly 70 years ago.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts





The first 50-year-old women officer cadets have served in the German Bundeswehr for the past year and are a fine figure in every respect. Women in uniform, here seen being issued with clothes, are to serve solely in medical and nursing units. There continues to be a ban on women bearing arms in the German armed forces. (Photo: DAd/dpa)

Women demonstrate 'intellectual superiority' as officers in Germany

By Erich Esch

BONN (DAd) — The German Bundeswehr reports mainly positive experience with the first women in its ranks. In their first year 50 young women have completed fully-fledged basic training and proved their worth as officer cadets in the medical service. But women will continue to be a tiny minority in the Bundeswehr. They may serve in a variety of capacities in other North Atlantic pact armed forces but in the Bundeswehr they will never be more than officers in the medical service; there is a constitutional ban on women bearing arms.

This provision poses a number of serious practical problems. Because of the ban on bearing arms women cannot embark on a

career in all branches of the medical service or the music corps or serve as commanding officers. The first women cadets on board the sailing ship Gorch Fock, the pride of the Bundesmarine, posed problems too. They were unable to climb to the top of the rigging and were allowed more room in which to sleep than male cadets, much to the men's chagrin.

A Federal Defence Ministry report says women officer cadets are, as a rule, first rate. They fit neatly into the armed forces and are "more enthusiastic, more communicative, more active and more interested in many ways" than male cadets. In the army especially, many women are found to have demonstrated "an intellectual superiority, a physical

and mental load capacity and a staying power" that were a model many men would do well to emulate.

Women naturally pose special problems as serving members of the Luftwaffe and the Bundesmarine. Equal rights on board the Gorch Fock, for instance, proved virtually impossible, while leadership responsibility has proved indivisible in the Luftwaffe too.

A constitutional amendment is said by the Bundeswehr command to be the only practicable means of ensuring equal rights in the armed forces and thereby eliminating causes of conflict and dissatisfaction. Manufacturing gala uniforms, designs and combat wear designed specially for women is also advised.

Legal brothels a solution against AIDS

By Claire Rosenberg
Reuter

PARIS — Ministers, prostitutes, historians and medical experts have joined battle in one of France's longest-running public debates — whether or not to legalise brothels.

Since an angry feminist town councillor succeeded in closing the country's once illustrious brothels in 1946, the state has lost all control over the large corps of professional prostitutes.

Now former health minister Mielche Barzach, herself a medical practitioner, wants to legalise whores to help fight AIDS. The ban made it impossible to monitor the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome within the prostitute community, she said.

"It is difficult to take action against a problem which is theoretically non-existent," she said. "This is scandalous. I believe, at the risk of offending many people, that we must think about reopening our brothels."

AIDS has hit harder in France than in any other West European nation and there is growing concern about contamination from transvestite prostitutes, often drug users.

But Barzach drew an angry response from Women's Rights Minister Michele Andre. "How could a woman come up with such a proposal?" she said. "No body can accept this form of slavery."

Humanitarian Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner disagreed. "Let's stop being hypocritical," he said. "Simply reopening brothels may not be the answer. But something must be done now."

At the time whores were banned there were 190 legal brothels in Paris whose "madames" employed 1,500 women.

Writers such as Guy de Maupassant portrayed them as champagne-flowing oases where upper-crust youngsters won their amorous spurs and dejected spouses found comfort and delight.

There was great outrage over the closure of what had become for many an accepted social institution but which in fact had begun as a means of controlling syphilis by making the girls take medical tests.

Since the ban, France has declared pimping illegal but has joined other so-called abolitionist countries in accepting a woman's fundamental right to prostitute herself. Medical tests disappeared in the 1960s.

Proponents of the legalisation of brothels point to the eros centres that operate under close surveillance in West Germany.

But French historian Laure Adler, who recently published a book on 19th century brothels, told the newspaper Le Monde this weekend that the Latin lovers brought up on the French and Italian amorous traditions could never accept such a system.

"Our tradition," she said, "makes a hygienic, medically supervised system where prostitution is simply a sexual release impossible."

Like a number of medical experts she said keeping prostitutes behind closed doors would not solve the problem.

Scientists warn of another 'ice age'

By Irwin Arieff,
Science Correspondent

WASHINGTON (R) — Is there too much complacency about the possibility of earth being struck by a giant asteroid like the one blamed for snuffing out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago?

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Chairman of the National Space Council, and some astro-

nomers are worried that there is. If the past is truly a prologue to the future, they say, an asteroid could come hurtling down at any moment, at any point on the globe.

If it were big enough and landed close enough to a large city, it could kill millions of people on impact and send up clouds of dust that could block out the sun and make the world a cold and life-threatening place for generations, scientific experts say.

"It would certainly benefit all nations to know when such an event might occur, warn those who could be affected and maybe some day even affect whether and where such an event might happen," Quayle said in a recent speech to the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronauts.

The aeronautics institute has been pressing the government to set up a programme to identify asteroids that threaten to crash into earth and look for ways to push them off course.

"Despite the low probability that a life-destroying asteroid impact will occur, the fact is that the probability of such an event is finite and, should it occur, the resulting disaster is likely to be without precedent," the institute said in a recent report.

While no human has ever been killed by a falling asteroid — at

least as far as scientists know — a dog was killed by one in Nakhli, Egypt, in 1906.

In March 1989 an asteroid bigger than an aircraft carrier and travelling at 74,000 kilometres per hour crossed the earth's orbit just six hours after the planet passed the same point in space.

"Had it struck the earth, the energy released would have been equivalent to that of 1,000 to 2,500 one-megaton hydrogen bombs," the institute said.

"In an area of high population density ... millions of people would have died instantly."

There are numerous asteroids circling the sun, mostly between Mars and Jupiter.

However, astronomers believe only 1,000 to 1,500 of them measure at least 800 metres across and might be on a potential collision course with earth, according

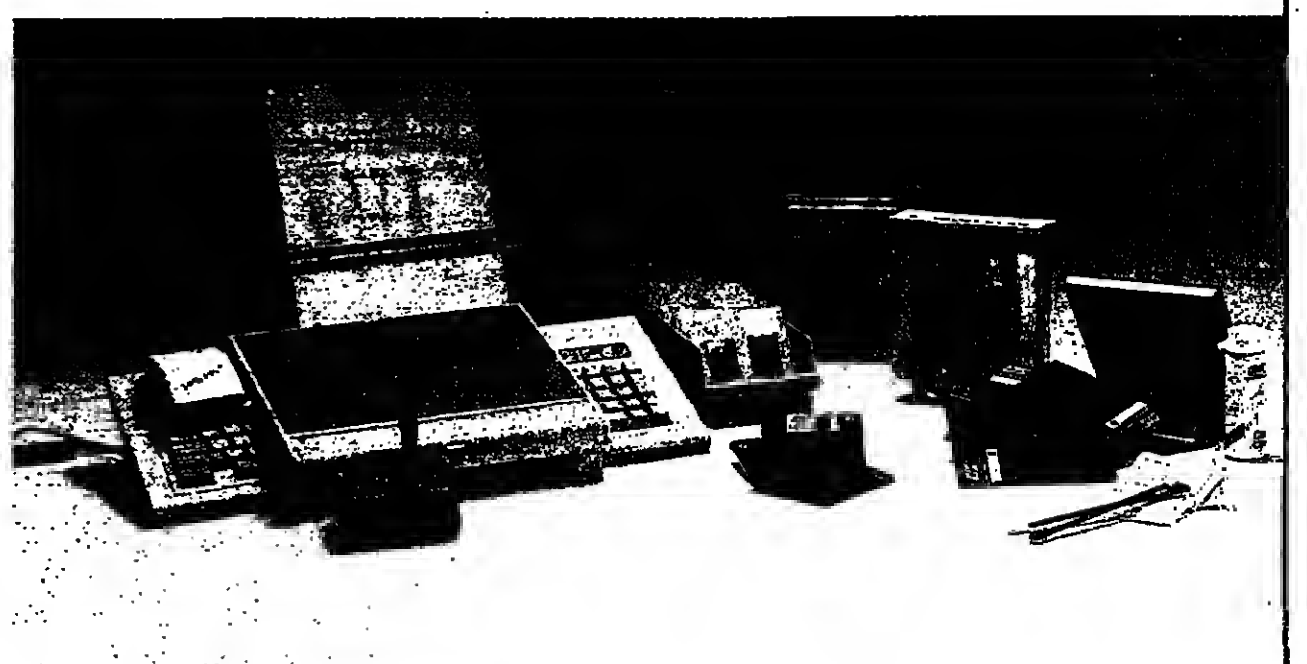
to a study by Eugene Shoemaker, an astronomer with the U.S. Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Jerry Grey, director of science and technology policy for the aeronautics institute, said the U.S. government should address the problem and try to provide some sort of protection from these asteroids, which scientists call "earth crossers."

"There is something that could be done about this for a fairly small amount of money and on a non-rush basis," Grey said in a telephone interview.

The institute is asking the government to speed up to \$5 million on new telescopes to look for earth crossers over the next 10 to 15 years. Once they found, their trajectories would be calculated by computer to determine those of greatest threat to the earth.

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Muslims in Monrovia terrified

By Michael Rookley
Reuter

MONROVIA, — The street outside the Benson Street mosque in central Monrovia is normally jammed with people attending evening prayers on Fridays.

But not in these uncertain days. With rebels close to the Liberian capital and fears of bloody reprisals against the ethnic group that makes up the bulk of the country's Muslim community, the streets are almost empty.

"Now it is very difficult for the mosque to fill up," said Lassana, 36, who makes a living importing goods from neighbouring Ivory Coast and is a member of the Mandingo-Muslim community.

"Many of our Mandingo people have been killed at mosques and some people have been assassinating them at their homes," he said.

Sometimes the rebels take our women and keep them two or three months in the bush... and some men refuse them when they come back."

The Muslim community of this rundown West African capital city of 500,000 people is terrified at the approach of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia rebels led by Charles Taylor.

The city has been all but emptied of Mandingos, a Liberian name for people who in neighbouring countries are called Malinke, signifying that they are descended from the ancient trad-

ing civilisation of Mali.

Many Malinke run small shops or are tailors, peddlers, money lenders and taxi drivers.

An announcement that talks between the government and the rebels would begin this week in Sierra Leone eased tensions somewhat, but it will take time to undo the damage done in six months of fighting.

Finding a taxi is virtually impossible since many Mandingos who own the bulk of the cabs have driven their last fares straight to the border and beyond.

Hundreds of shops remain shuttered all day long because their Mandingo owners have fled.

They have gone to Sierra Leone or Guinea, which many of them left in the 1960s to escape the socialist regime of the late Guinean Leader Sekou Toure.

Now they are returning to Guinea after hearing rumours and eyewitness accounts of alleged killings of Mandingos as towns after towns have fallen to the rebels who invaded on Christmas eve from neighbouring Ivory Coast.

"If the rebels continue to slaughter the Mandingos... this will become an Islamic feud and that will be something else," said a government official who is a Muslim.

"It's an economic problem," an African diplomat said. "The Muslims are very dynamic and they have a certain monopoly on commerce and transport."

"They have a lifestyle that is a bit better than those around them, and they are foreigners so they get blamed for the country's economic disaster."

One African embassy in the capital city of this country founded in 1847 by freed Americans slaves is jammed every day with Mandingos trying to flee the country.

One woman said she had left Kakata, 70 kilometres northeast of the capital, two weeks ago after rebels invaded and, she alleged, began shooting Mandingos indiscriminately.

"They shot at us on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday — every day," the woman said.

"It's like this we left — with nothing," she said, pointing to her dress. "They took all our money and clothes."

The woman, who escaped with her two small children, said she was among about 300 people who walked through jungle and plantations, keeping off the main road.

"We've had dozens of deaths (of Mandingos) reported by eyewitnesses and various sources from Sanniquelle, Buchanan and Kakata," the African diplomat said.

Diplomats say they have protested to the government and tried to express their concern to rebel leader Taylor in an effort to end the killing, but little seems possible as the country sinks deeper and deeper into anarchy.

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UNCTAD expert highlights GSP benefits for Jordan

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan possesses the necessary infrastructure and has the capability to utilise the generalised system of preferences (GSP). But the Kingdom still needs advanced rationalisation and coordination to establish an "organised structure" which can become a Middle East model in the future as far as full exploitation of the GSP, according to Stefano Inama, a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) expert who is currently visiting Jordan.

The expert described the GSP as an economic tool to increase export earnings of developing countries, promote industrialisation and accelerate rates of economic growth.

Inama said the GSP was "simply a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to eligible products imported from developing countries." The system, he said, provides for more reduced tariffs than those levied on industrial goods traded between developed nations under a system known as most-favoured-nation (MFN) status.

The GSP, according to the

expert, who is here on a special mission by invitation from the Amman Chamber of Industry, removes or reduces the duty on Jordanian products and makes them more competitive price-wise to an overseas importer whose country extends GSP treatment.

As a result, a foreign importer has an incentive to direct purchases towards Jordanian products.

The products then have the opportunity to penetrate a new market or win a bigger share of it.

The GSP is a waiver from General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules to help the industrialisation of developing countries, which comprise 128 members grouped in the internationally-known Group of 77 (G-77). The system involves 16 schemes extended by 27 developed countries, including the European Community (EC), the U.S., Australia, Canada, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nations and some East bloc countries.

Inama said the GSP process begins with the notification which should be handled by the government. The government should inform all GSP-giving nations of a designated official body which verifies, stamps and ultimately

approves a product for GSP treatment in an importer's country.

Such a responsible body would then be a focal point for all transactions involving Jordanian exports for GSP benefits instead of involving many parties such as the Department of Customs or the Ministry of Industry and Trade for the needed authorisation.

An exception to the GSP benefits, Inama notes, will be a bilateral agreement exists between Jordan and a foreign GSP country providing for more advantages and facilities than either the GSP or the MFN. Such bilateral agreements involving reduced tariffs are currently being processed by the Department of Customs in Jordan.

The expert highlighted the importance of the GSP by pointing to East Asian countries which have exploited the advantage of the system to the optimum and have become more industrialised to the extent that some developed countries have withdrawn the GSP benefits.

Indonesia, for example, has registered a 40 per cent increase in exports since it started utilising the GSP advantage while African countries are still behind in im-



Stefano Inama

plementing the system because of lack of knowledge.

Inama indicated that textiles and agricultural, pharmaceutical, and chemical products are eligible for GSP treatment while raw materials, like phosphate, are not eligible because GSP seeks to encourage industrialisation as a top priority rather than primary material exports.

The Italian expert said that he had felt enthusiasm among Jordanian exporters and officials he had met. The willingness of Jordanians to cooperate in adopting the GSP is very encouraging that the expert expects a special unit to be established soon to handle the system in close cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry.

U.S., Iran finalise \$600m settlement

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Iran agreed Friday to pay the American oil company Amoco \$600 million for operations expropriated during the 1979 Islamic revolution, an Iran-United States claims tribunal official said.

It was the first major settlement of more than \$1.8 billion worth of U.S. corporate oil claims filed against Iran at the tribunal, which has been arbitrating financial claims by the two nations since 1981.

Settlement of the oil claims would be a major step toward re-establishment of oil trading ties between Iran and the United States, which imposed an embargo on all Iranian goods after the 1979 ouster of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Oil accounts for 90 per cent of Iran's foreign exchange earnings. The absence of the American market has been a major financial blow to a nation whose economy was ravaged by the eight-year Gulf war with Iraq.

At issue in Friday's settlement were claims by two Amoco subsidiaries against the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), according to the official, who insisted on anonymity, in line with tribunal policy.

The Amoco Iran Oil Company filed the largest of the two claims, worth \$540 million, for the expropriation by Iran of four offshore drilling fields in the Gulf, known as Nowruz, Ardeshir, Cyrus and Darins, the official said.

The Darins field includes Kharg Island, the shipping point for most Iranian oil.

The second claim, totaling \$60 million, was filed by Amoco International Finance Corporation and related to Iran's expropriation of a petrochemical plant on Kharg, the official said.

The Amoco package as a whole "was one of the most strongly contested claims... it removes a lot of work from the tribunal," the official told the AP.

Friday's settlement leaves pending more than \$1.2 billion

worth of claims from oil companies which did business in pre-revolutionary Iran, according to the official.

It followed last month's settlement of about 3,000 financial claims totalling \$105 million, known as the "small claims" package.

The small claims package was signed shortly after the release of American hostages Frank Reed and Robert Pollack by pro-Iranian kidnappers in Beirut.

But both American and Iranian officials have stressed their talks dealt only with financial arbitration and did not involve on the fate of the six American hostages still being held in Lebanon.

Since its 1981 inception, Washington and Tehran have both taken pains to dissociate the tribunal's arbitration and settlement activities from the hostage issue.

The biggest item still on the tribunal's agenda is an Iranian claim of up to \$11 billion for military equipment ordered by the Shah's government but never delivered because of the U.S. embargo imposed on the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The U.S. government contends that much of the material Iran is claiming compensation for is not under its control, but belongs to individual contractors who were never paid.

Washington claims it found buyers for some of the equipment Iran did pay for, and deposited the money in Iran's accounts after the revolution.

The Hague-based tribunal was set up as part of the Algiers Accord of 1980, which paved the way to freedom for the American hostages held by Iranian militants at the U.S. embassy in Tehran for 444 days.

It has been the only official forum where American and Iranian officials have been meeting throughout the decade-long confrontation between the two nations.

Union of Arab Banks studies \$3b capital banking institution

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Union of Arab Banks has initiated serious moves towards setting up a development and construction bank with the aim of facilitating the flow of Arab capital for development projects and trade in the Arab World and dealing with the intricacies posed by the creation of a united Europe in the year 1992.

Invitations for offers have been sent out to at least three consultant firms — in France, Kuwait and Jordan — to undertake a feasibility study of the project, which was proposed by the annual meeting of the union held in Frankfurt last March, said Adnan Al Hindi, secretary of the Beirut-based union.

"The idea is to establish an Arab banking institution capable of providing capital for development and construction projects in the Arab World," Hindi told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Friday. "At the same time, the (proposed entity) will not be competing with the various Arab funds and agencies in any form since its dealings will be strictly on a commercial basis," he added.

According to Dr. Hindi, the proposed capital for the bank could be \$3 billion, but this figure and other pertinent details, in-

cluding the base for the institution, will depend on the feasibility study.

The capital for the institution, expected to be the first of its kind in the Arab World, will be raised mostly in the form of bonds and shares from the private sector in various Arab countries, "thus offering a new momentum to the Arab capital market," Dr. Hindi said.

It is envisaged that the proposed institution will finance projects undertaken by the private sector as well as joint ventures involving private as well as public sectors in the Arab World, he said.

One of the consultants approached by the union is the Amman-based Jawad Al Anani Centre for Economic and Technological Studies. According to Dr. Jawad Al Anani, head of the centre, the concept of a private sector pan-Arab commercial bank stemmed from the need for "an Arab banking institution capable of being instrumental in channelling capital into Arab capital markets and of dealing with a united Europe" which will come into being in 1992 when the 12 members of the European Community (EC) will merge into one commercial entity without borders.

Within the context of the Arab World, Anani said, the proposed

entity could facilitate inter-Arab trade and barter deals in a "structured framework and regulate the flow of Arab capital."

On an external level, "the small size of the Arab banks now operating in Europe and elsewhere will pose difficulties while dealing with united Europe," Anani, an economist and a former minister, told the Jordan Times. Furthermore, there is also a pressing need for an Arab institution which can adapt itself to and apply international banking techniques, he added.

The other two consultants approached by the Union of Arab Banks for the feasibility study are Tammam Company for Consultancy of Kuwait and Dr. Jose Krumm of France, according to Dr. Hindi. He said the union will take a decision on awarding the feasibility study project in the second week of July.

The study is expected to be completed by the end of the year and will be submitted to the next annual conference of the union, scheduled to be held in Rome in May 1991.

The union, established in 1973, is made up of 250 Arab banks and financial institutions, including 12 central banks and several Arab funds and agencies. Although it does not have an executive role, the union acts as an umbrella organisation of all banking activities in the Arab World.

China gets new World Bank loan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank approved a \$150-million loan to China Thursday to improve farm production for 540,000 families of Hebei province in the northeast of the country.

Leonardo V. Coronel, a bank spokesman, said the vote was unanimous in the 22-member board of directors.

The bank's charter requires it to make loans only on economic grounds, regardless of political events.

However, a few days after Chinese tanks put down the movement for more democracy last June, bank President Barber Conable withheld \$780 million worth of loans for China from consideration by the board. They would have brought China's borrowing to more than \$2 billion for the bank's fiscal year 1989, which ended last June 30.

Thursday's loan brought to \$590 million its lending to China for the bank's current year. The loan is for 35 years. During the first 10, only interest need be paid, at a rate of less than one per cent annually. Other loans may come before the year ends two weeks from now.

The World Bank usually makes a series of loans in the last few weeks of the fiscal year, for an overall total that in 1989 reached more than \$21 billion — the biggest source of aid to the Third World.

U.S. President George Bush has said he favours loans to China only for basic human needs. On Wednesday, a key subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives voted to withhold U.S. contributions to the bank if it makes any other kind of loan to China. The United States, the biggest contributor of 152 member countries, is already behind on its payments to the bank.

Coronel said there has been no agreed definition of basic human needs. On May 29 the directors unanimously approved a \$300-million loan for tree-planting in China. Another loan, involving \$150 million for roads and waterways, was indefinitely postponed at the request of a member country, which a spokesman said was not the United States.

Brady said the bailout programme could continue beyond the end of this year without new funds by slowing down the pace of its savings.

Savings, loans bailout hits snags

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady told congress Thursday that the administration's savings and loan bailout could exhaust its borrowing authority as soon as the October-December quarter.

The Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC), the 10-month-old agency responsible for cleaning up the savings and loans mess, "could, with an aggressive schedule of case resolutions, run out of funds by the end of this calendar year or early next year," Brady told the House of Representatives banking committee.

His latest testimony followed by three weeks a dramatic increase in the administration's

estimate of the cost of the savings and loans problem. Brady had roughly doubled the estimate to between \$89 billion and \$132 billion, after earlier insisting that \$50 billion provided by Congress last year could cover most savings and loans losses.

Any estimate of how much more money is needed from taxpayers is "highly uncertain," Brady said, but a "representative range" for fiscal year 1991 beginning Oct. 1 would be "about \$30 billion to slightly over \$50 billion."

He did not specify how the administration believed the money should be raised, saying only that the matter should be

considered in budget negotiations between the White House and congressional leaders.

He strongly suggested that congress should provide an open-ended authorisation for more rescue spending, rather than a specific amount that may prove inadequate.

Providing a specific amount "means having to face the prospect of returning at relatively short intervals as markets change and, with them, the estimates," he said.

Brady said the bailout programme could continue beyond the end of this year without new funds by slowing down the pace of its savings.

Intra-Asian investment fuels boom

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

TOKYO — Asian nations are receiving more in investment from one another than from Europe or North America, fuelling a boom likely to make Asia the world's fastest growing region this decade, economists and officials say.

The metaphor favoured by economists to describe this process is a formation of "flying geese," with the richer countries — Japan, South Korea and Taiwan — providing the resources to enable other Asian nations to follow in economic take-off.

The process began in the mid-1980s as manufacturers in the three countries started shifting production offshore to cope with the appreciation of their currencies, which made their goods more expensive in world markets.

Asian investment for the

first time accounted for more than half of all foreign investment in Indonesia and Thailand by 1986, in Malaysia in 1987 and in the Philippines in 1988, and has continued pulling ahead since.

"Such rapid increases in intra-regional inflows of direct investment have profound ramifications for the transfer of managerial know-how and production technology," said Choo Hakchung, chief economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

He told an investment seminar that these flows were likely to help Asia retain its position on the leading edge of world economic growth throughout the 1990s.

John Ni, director general of Taiwan's Industrial Development and Investment Centre, said his country had a net capital outflow last year for the first time, and the outflow this year would be double or triple

the 1989 level.

"This outward investment is positive for the economy as a whole because it goes into natural resources, raw materials and lower manufacturing costs," he said.

He said that out of Taiwan's 80-90,000 companies, only several thousand had made outward investments, meaning there was enormous potential, especially because the second generation of managers had often been educated abroad and spoke English, while their fathers who founded the company did not.

He said this flow was different to investment by Hong Kong residents emigrating before the Communist takeover in 1997, because it brought benefit to the parent company in Taiwan, while Hong Kong people were moving their money out for good.

A main beneficiary of Taiwan's investment has been

China, from which many foreign companies have stayed away for fear of political instability after a military crackdown on student-led protest.

Chen Yuan, deputy director of the People's Bank of China, the central bank, told the seminar that Taiwan investment had helped reduce China's need for foreign borrowing, had brought in advanced technology and management, and had upgraded equipment.

Of the 539 ventures from Taiwan last year, 60 per cent were wholly owned by Taiwan residents and more than 80 per cent of their total output was exported, the ideal kind of investment from Peking's point of view, he said.

Such rapid inflow, from Hong Kong as well as Taiwan, has caused economists to start talking of "greater China," with the three areas gradually becoming a single economic entity.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 16, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your judgement is clear and strong; you are in the mood to go along with the business activities that are important to you; tonight avoid a newswoman.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Use your charms to try to get one who is depressed in the mood to go along with the business activities that are important to you; tonight avoid a newswoman.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Do something in the world what will please the public and enhance your position, then tonight keep away from obligations that depress you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Keep working away at interests already put in motion until they have been completed and tonight relax and avoid an outside harassment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Some obstacles arise about arrangements for some recreation you desire but it is well worth time consumed in solving this issue.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you have in mind about changing conditions at your home make sure that you have full approval of other family members, tonight avoid an expensive amusement.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Reports and communications that need more than ordinary

thought and consideration are the media for you to do today's activities; tonight maintain peace at home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about what you can do to get bills and collections more efficiently handled in your various materialistic affairs; tonight drive slowly.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Going after personal aims is all right so long as you have a carefully thought out plan how best to secure your ends; tonight be practical.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't allow a prejudice that you feel to keep you from getting benefits from a potentially worthwhile source, tonight get a good night's rest.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You must tell a supporter all the facts involved in a situation if you want that person to be of service as you anticipate of being.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You need to get into the nitty-gritty of whatever public or worldly vocational activities are required by you; tonight enjoy a hobby.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An advanced phase of a long time ambition is the best way for you in progress today, so focus attention upon this; tonight don't push outside interests.

THE Daily Crossword

by George Uquhart

ACROSS

- Work for
- Men in the kitchen
- War god
- Medicinal plant
- Fortunetelling
- Royal address
- Table setting
- Pine
- Brilliance
- Law
- Salt first
- Me. Burstin
- Ingredient
- Leid — (listen)
- Taken care of
- Cyrus
- Calendar abbr.
- Wine cask
- Towel word
- Ms. Burstin
- Refer to
- Sp. gold
- Tucker out
- Burden of
- Indian region
- Shot in billiards
- Gods of the seasons
- Fennies
- City on the Rhine
- Show avid interest in
- Fat
- "Do unto others"
- Gr. mountain
- Star's friend
- Utopia
- Interrogative
- Lacquer ingredient
- Fox

DOWN

- Atelier prop
- Carroll heroine
- MO town
- Penic residents
- Middle: abbr.
- Fumbling utterance
- 7 Times of note
- Specialty
- Piffers
- Take for granted
- Movie canine
- Iroquoian
- Tennis units
- Short jacket
- Pipe folk
- Large party
- Foible
- Memento
- Salvina skirt
- Waltz items
- Store
- GA country
- Locomotive
- Glaetzer ice tournament
- Slough Wolfe
- School Fr.
- Chopin opus
- Maed a judgment
- Use
- Stream
- Wing
- Wings
- 502
- Poetic word

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 5-15



"I think we should ask \$2 million, then let the buyer talk us down to \$39,500."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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RIBAN

CAMIAN

TIPEOA

WHERE DID THE OLD LADY WHO LIVED IN A SHOE SEND HER KIDS WHEN THEY GREW UP?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: TO "JUMBLE" (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: AWARD SPURN JOGUND PAYOFF

Answer: What they said every time they came up with one of its state jokes — FOR — CORN

Detroit Pistons win second NBA title

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Nine straight points and a last-second jumper by Isiah Johnson were what the Detroit Pistons needed to repeat as NBA champions and complete an improbable three-peat sweep in Portland.

And they got it. Johnson, held to one point for three periods, scored 15 in the fourth quarter, including a 15-footer (3-metre shot) with seven-tenths of a second left that gave the Pistons a 92-90 win and a 4-1 victory in the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals.

Johnson scored seven of the nine consecutive Pistons points in the last 1:50. The other two were by Isiah Johnson, the unanimous choice of the NBA's most valuable player, who scored 29 points in the final game and averaged 27.6 in the championship series.

The Pistons, only the third franchise to repeat as champions, trailed 90-83 with 2:07 left. Johnson had seven of those nine. Thomas scored the other two, a jumper with 36 seconds left that tied the score at 90-90.

"My shot couldn't have come at a better time," Johnson said. "Bill Laimbeer told me, 'I don't care if you miss 500 in a row, I'm still with you.' The shot felt good when it left my hand and it fell. I got real lucky."

Said Pistons coach Chuck Daly: "We got the Daly double. I wanted this one more than any of the last three trips. This team worked really hard."

The Pistons had lost 20 straight games in Portland since 1974, then won three straight on the

Trail Blazers' court.

Thus, they became the first team ever to win five consecutive road games in the NBA finals. In addition to winning the three at Portland, they completed a four-game sweep against the Los Angeles Lakers last season by capturing the final two games at the forum.

Detroit is now 30-7 in its play-off runs to consecutive championships. Five of the losses were to Chicago in the 1989 and 1990 Eastern Conference finals. They lost once each to New York and Portland this year.

The only franchises besides Detroit to win consecutive titles are the Boston Celtics and Minneapolis-Los Angeles Lakers. Minneapolis did it in 1949-50 and 1953-54, the Celtics from 1959-1966 and 1968-69 and Los Angeles in 1987-88.

Thomas, Johnson and Joe Dumars combined for 153 points in the previous two games — an average of 25.5 apiece — but only Thomas was effective Thursday until Johnson brought the Pistons back in the fourth quarter.

"This was much sweeter" than last year, Thomas said. "This is a special team."

Dumars, whose father died Sunday, was 2-for-13 from the field and scored eight points. Johnson was 0-for-3 and scored one point in the first three quarters, before going 6-for-8 in the final period.

"I want to go home and get this over with. I didn't want to play anymore," said Dumars, whose father will be buried in Louisiana Saturday.

Iraq wins ACC handball championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq's Al Rashid club won the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) handball championship after easily defeating Jordan's Al Salt club, the host, 31-12 in a match held Wednesday at the Palace of Culture.

Al Rashid club players received the trophy and the medals from Youth Minister Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein.

Al Olympi of Egypt came second in the championship after achieving a narrow victory over Al Ahli of Jordan. Al Ahli managed to win the first half of the match 12-11, but could not maintain the lead for its advantage because Al Olympi played strongly at the end of the match to win 24-23.

Al Salt came in third place while Al Ahli trailed in the fourth place.

The three-day championship aimed to enhance ties among the ACC countries, said Jamil Ahmad Ayyad, head of Al Olympi delegation. He expressed his admiration of the opening ceremony of the championship and landed the organisation in general. Head of the Iraqi delegation, Hsain Jawad, said it was a pioneer step taken by Al Salt club to organise the championship.

He said that regardless of the results achieved, the championship has accomplished its goals.

Egypt, Ireland vie for 2nd round berth

PALERMO (R) — World Cup novice Egypt and Ireland meet Sunday knowing a win for either team is almost certain to guarantee qualification for Group F.

Egypt, in the finals for the first time since 1934, held European champions the Netherlands 1-1 in their opening game while the Irish began their first ever World Cup with a draw against England.

"We are quite confident we can pick up two more points and qualify," said Ireland striker John Aldridge.

Three points are likely to guarantee a place in the last 16, with only eight teams eliminated after the first round group matches.

Ireland are unlikely to give Egypt the freedom they enjoyed against the Dutch when Ahmed Al Kass and Magdi Abdul Ghani took control of midfield to launch a series of rapid attacks.

"We can play pretty football but we like to play effective football. Our system is about not giving people time to play," said Irish coach Jack Charlton, a World Cup winner as a player with England in 1966.

Charlton clearly believes the hard-working and direct Irish style, which has helped them to a run of 14 games unbeaten, can unsettle teams in the World Cup. "Egypt play like the rest of the world. We don't, nor do we intend to... we don't change for anybody," he said.

Egyptian coach Mahmoud Al Gohari has great respect for the Irish.

"They are aggressive in attack and have strong morale and a great will to win. They have a marvellous coach and have had marvellous results for the last 15 months," he said.

Al Gohari has had his squad of part-time players together for four months to bring them to a level where they can compete with highly professional European teams.

But he said they did not have the flexibility to alter their game for the different challenge posed by the Irish.

"We cannot alter our style. For that we would have needed to have several more months together," he said.

But they showed against the Dutch that their preparations have fostered a great understanding and spirit and in striker Hosam Hassan they have a player with pace to trouble the ageing Irish central defence.

Ireland have the option of recalling Ronnie Whelan to midfield after a thigh strain.

His Liverpool teammate Ray Houghton missed part of Thursday's training session with an Achilles tendon injury while defenders Kevin Moran and Chris Morris are also under treatment for knee and ankle strains respectively.

Egypt have no injury worries and could find a place on the substitutes' bench for playmaker Taber Abu Zeid who is on his way back to full fitness after a leg injury.

Czechoslovakia advances to second round with win

FLORENCE (R) — Czechoslovakia reached the second round of the World Cup finals by beating arch rivals and neighbours Austria 1-0 in Group A Friday.

A 30th-minute penalty by Michael Bilek was enough to give the Czechoslovaks four points from their first two matches.

With one pool match remaining, Czechoslovakia and unbeaten hosts Italy must fill the top two qualifying places.

Czechoslovakia, who crashed the United States 5-1 in their opening game, were expected to defend and let the Austrians bring the game to them.

But coach Josef Venglovsky's side took the initiative and showed their attacking skills in the first half.

Bilek coolly slotted the spot kick home after Austrian goal-

keeper Klaus Lindenberger felled midfielder Jozef Chovanec.

Chovanec, one of Czechoslovakia's most accomplished players, was carried off with an injury to his right leg.

The Austrians tried to move forward in the second half but the Czechoslovak defence, ably directed by Jan Kocian and Miroslav Kadlec, very rarely gave them an opportunity to create chances.

Ivo Knoflíček, who did not play in any of the qualifying matches after defecting to the West in 1988, looked dangerous with his deceptive change of pace.

Protecting their one-goal lead, the Czechoslovaks resorted to a more defensive approach after the interval. But they still looked sharper in front of goal than Austria, who must now hope they can scrape into the second round

as one of the best third-placed teams.

To have any chance of reaching the knockout stages coach Josef Hickersberger's side must beat the Americans by a huge margin Tuesday.

Hickersberger was furious about his team's dismal showing, particularly the dreadful back pass by defender Anton Pfeifer which led to Czechoslovakia's goal.

"We beat ourselves with a disastrous back pass which should not be seen at any World Cup tournament," he said. "After that we were struggling to get back on terms."

Czechoslovakia's victory ended a poor World Cup run which has seen them fail to progress beyond the group stages since 1962 when they reached final before losing to Brazil.

Few cheer paltry Italian victory over United States

ROME (R) — Few of Italy's ardent soccer fans stayed up to celebrate their team's paltry 1-0 World Cup victory over the United States Thursday night.

Most of the booing, flag waving revellers who paraded the streets of Rome all night after the home side's 1-0 win over Austria last week, went home quietly.

Italians, who had expected a feast of goals following the United States' 5-1 thrashing by Czechoslovakia Sunday, saw only a disorganised side playing at half pace and unable to take their chances.

"Italians on a (goal) Diet" ran the headline in the leading sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport.

Italy had been quoted as 14-1

on favourites in the match, with the United States 50-1 against.

But the Americans came very close to snatching a draw when Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga made a brilliant save to a John Harkes' free kick in the 69th minute.

Peter Vermes's follow-up shot slid under Zenga's body and was scrambled off the goal-line by Riccardo Ferri.

Italy had gone ahead in the 11th minute with a fine goal from Giuseppe Giannini and, although playing less than scintillating football, looked in control.

That had a change of pace beyond the Americans' reach in the 33rd minute when Nicola Bertini was hauled down in

the penalty area by Paul Caligiuri.

But Gianluca Vialli, who has not scored for Italy since April last year, drove the spot-kick against the post.

"I angled the ball too much. It was a great shame," he said later. Italy's inability to convert their chances must be a cause of concern for Italian manager Azeglio Vicini.

But after the match he refused to be drawn by critical questions from Italian journalists. "We have qualified and that was our objective," he said.

Italy's first match against the United States was played well against the Americans' side who had learned from their mistakes against Czechoslovakia

Jozic enlivens Yugoslav hopes

BOLOGNA (R) — Davor Jozic rekindled Yugoslavia's World Cup hopes Thursday with the goal that gave them a 1-0 victory over Colombia in Group D.

Defeat against Colombia would almost certainly have meant an early exit for Yugoslavia after their 4-1 loss to group favourites West Germany, and the match seemed headed for a goalless draw until Jozic struck.

Cesena-based Jozic, who scored Yugoslavia's goal against the West Germans in Milan Sunday, chested down a cross in and shot high into the net over the outstretched hand of goalkeeper Rene Higuita in the 73rd minute.

Yugoslavia missed a chance to make it 2-0 seven minutes later when Higuita dived to the right to save a penalty from Faruk Hadzibegic after Colombian defender Luis Carlos Perera handled.

Colombia, who beat United Arab Emirates in their opening game, face West Germany in their last group match and may be

struggling to qualify themselves.

Yugoslavia, who beat Colombia 5-0 in their only previous World Cup meeting with the South Americans 28 years ago, had two other goals, by Srećko Katanec and Marseille-bound Dragan Stojkovic, disallowed for offside.

Stojkovic was the only player to be booked when he ignored Italian referee Luigi Agnolin's whistle late in the second half and ran on past the static Colombian defence to put the ball in the net.

Inspired by Jozic's goal, Darko Pančev, a second-half substitute for captain Zlatko Vujovic, tried

to score minutes later.

Higuita, throwing himself to the ground, fumbled his first attempt to stop the shot but reached out quickly to snatch the ball and hug it to his chest.

Yugoslavia's 35-year-old Safet Susic worked tirelessly in midfield but several times found his efforts going to waste because of the slow reactions of his team mates.

But Stojkovic produced a fine one-two in front of goal with Susic whose steeply angled shot was stopped by the flamboyant Higuita.

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Liberian rebel leader vows to take Monrovia if talks fail

GBORPLAY, Liberia (R) — Rebel leader Charles Taylor vowed to take the Liberian capital Monrovia within hours if peace talks with President Samuel Doe's government collapsed.

"We are not going to talk for ever," Taylor told Reuters at his jungle headquarters.

Members of Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and Liberian officials began talks in Freetown, capital of neighbouring Sierra Leone, Tuesday to try to end the bloody six-month rebellion.

"If the Freetown talks completely crumble, I will take Monrovia within 12 hours," Taylor said. "I'll tell anybody that," Taylor said. "Wednesday in an interview delayed by communications problems."

He said his forces were less than 50 kilometres from Monrovia and controlled up to 85 per cent of Liberia, black Africa's oldest independent republic founded in 1847 by freed American slaves.

Many of Monrovia's half a million residents have already fled the city and foreign embassies have evacuated most of their citizens.

Speaking from a sprawling bush camp in northeastern Liberia, Taylor said he was in constant radio contact with the rebel delegation in Sierra Leone. He said he was leaving Gborplay camp to visit troops in Kakata, 50

kilometres northeast of the besieged capital.

Taylor repeated his demand that Doe step down as part of any peace settlement.

"We are not going to debate Doe's remaining in power, we are not there to work out an amicable solution as to how he can remain in power," Taylor said.

Doe, a former army master sergeant, has ruled this country of 2.3 million people since toppling a civilian government in a bloody coup in 1980.

The revolt has degenerated in places into a tribal war between members of Doe's minority Krahn tribe and Gios and Manos who form the backbone of the rebel forces. Hundreds of people have been killed and more than 10 per cent of the population has fled abroad.

Taylor said he could take Liberia's main international airport at Robertsfield, 60 kilometres east of Monrovia, at any time. Foreign airlines have already stopped flying there.

"We don't want to destroy Robertsfield or Monrovia, and we are going to continue to find a solution, hoping that we can get in with minimum damage. But we have been fighting for six months

and we are not going to be talking for ever."

Taylor said he did not want to destroy Liberia's already fragile economic infrastructure.

Taylor, a former civil servant and businessman, fled to the United States in 1983 after Doe accused him of embezzling \$900,000 of government funds. He escaped from jail there while awaiting an extradition hearing and disappeared. He resurfaced in the Ivory Coast last December from where he led 150 poorly armed men into Liberia.

Western diplomats said the core of Taylor's men were trained in Libya. Taylor declined to comment on his Libyan connections but said he favoured a Western-style, capitalist government.

"I am the product of American education," said Taylor, who has a degree in economics from Bentley College near Boston.

"If (Liberian leader Nnamdi) Qadhafi has some money for me, I'll take it to free my people," he said.

"But Doe is undoubtedly our biggest arms supplier," he added with a smile, holding a brand new U.S.-made M-16 assault rifle captured from the Liberian army.

He poured scorn on Doe, who has been studying to improve his English and grasp of world affairs since coming to power as a semi-literate soldier.

"In a way I sympathise with him because of his limited intel-

lectual capacities," Taylor said.

Progress at talks

Meanwhile signs of progress towards a ceasefire in Liberia's bloody six-month-long rebellion emerged Friday as the government and rebels began the third full day of talks in Freetown.

Thomas Woewiyu, chief negotiator for Taylor's NPFL rebels, told reporters as he entered the talks he was "very hopeful" a ceasefire could be arranged in the West African country.

Another rebel delegate, Samuel Dokie, the NPFL's political consultant, said outside the U.S. embassy where the talks are being held that "things are progressing."

Liberian Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier told reporters as the talks recessed Thursday night: "We'll solve our problems very soon."

The two delegations remain far apart however on key issues, specifically on the rebel demand for the resignation of Doe.

Both sides are under considerable moral pressure from the church leaders who are mediating the talks to reach some sort of compromise to prevent a blood-bath if the rebels storm Monrovia.

A ceasefire is one part of a three-point peace programme formulated by the Liberian Council of Churches and Islamic religious leaders.

Burmese ruling party alleges fraud in elections

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's pro-democracy party, humiliated by its defeat in landslide last month's army-run elections, has protested that the National League for Democracy won by fraud.

"They said the complaint, lodged by the National Unity Party (NUP) with the election commission Thursday, has added to growing doubts in Rangoon about whether the military government would accept the ballot results and step down."

"It's just not clear whether this is sour grapes or some evil dark plan," said one diplomat contacted by telephone. "But it helps to confuse an already confused situation."

The army, which has controlled Burma's government since crushing street protests in 1988, had pledged to hand power to the election winners. But since the May 27 poll, it has hinted at delays in the transfer and said nothing about the future of detained opposition leaders.

"The SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) is keeping a sphinx-like silence on this," one diplomat said.

The NUP, the political successor to the Burma Socialist Programme Party, which ruled the country during 28 years of isolation and rigid state control, has so far won only six seats to 329 for

the National League for Democracy (NLD).

Diplomats said it had won at least a third of the vote in most constituencies.

Another 169 seats have yet to be officially announced.

Diplomats said it was unclear if the NUP complaint was sanctioned by the army. A text of the complaint, which detailed alleged election fraud in several constituencies by an unspecified "major party," has not been carried in the official media.

Diplomats said the statement could only refer to the Democracy League since it cornered an estimated 80 per cent of the seats. NUP officials were unavailable for comment.

Foreign journalists and diplomats have said the army, after months of heavy-handed intimidation through arrests, harassment and propaganda, kept to its promise of holding scrupulously fair polling. Only a handful of minor infringements were reported.

The NLD has not formally called for talks with the army or proposed forming a government, despite its officially declared majority. Diplomats said the NUP complaint may upset opposition hopes for a peaceful transfer of power if it is taken up by the government.

Killing of Colombian drug leader sparks fresh violence

MEDELLIN, Colombia (R) — The police killing of a key member of the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel has sparked a new round of bloodshed in Colombia's 10-month-old drug war.

Hours after the crack police elite corps raided a Medellin apartment and shot and killed John Jairo Arias Tascon, described as number five in the Medellin cartel, a powerful car bomb ripped through the city Thursday. It killed two bombers, a policeman and a civilian and wounded 43 people.

Police said the loss of Arias Tascon, the head of the Medellin cartel's assassins, was the sharpest blow to the drug barons since police killed cartel member two Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha last December.

The Medellin cartel, based in this city 250 kilometres northwest of Bogota, is Colombia's biggest. Together with the Cali cartel, it supplies 80 per cent of the cocaine used in the United States.

The police said Arias Tascon, who reported directly to fugitive Medellin boss Pablo Escobar, was involved in bomb attacks and assassinations of public figures, including the 1984 murder of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

They said they killed him after he drew a gun and tried to escape.

Soon after his death was announced, an 80-kilogramme car bomb exploded when police stopped a car half a block from a police station in the exclusive El Poblado sector of the Medellin, the same area where Arias Tascon was killed.

Police said drug-traffickers

were responsible for the bomb which wrecked buildings, stores and cars.

The bombing broke a relative calm in Colombia since May 27 presidential elections won by liberal Cesar Gaviria. The president-elect has pledged to continue a drug crackdown which was launched last August by President Virgilio Barco and which started the drug war.

A wave of bombings blamed on drug-traffickers killed at least 70 people and injured hundreds in the weeks before the elections. But the bombings mysteriously stopped a day before the polls and for several weeks afterwards the drug war was mainly limited to shootouts on the streets of Medellin.

Political analysts said the pause could mean police seizures of dynamite had hurt the traffickers or that the aim of the bombings was to disrupt the polls. Some suggested some of the bombs could have been planted by extreme right-wing groups.

Thursday's bombing fits firmly into the drug-war pattern of an eye for an eye. In a statement Wednesday, top drug traffickers said they would respond with arms to what they said was police torture and murder of their colleagues.

The government ordered 570 army and police reinforcements to Medellin this week to try to stem street shootings which killed more than 100 people last weekend. More than 130 policemen have been killed in the city this year.

The latest bombing suggested there would be no let-up in violence as Barco prepared to hand over power to Gaviria on Aug. 7.

Sofia opposition rejects coalition with Socialists

SOFIA (AP) — The chief of the Socialist Party has called again for a government of national consensus, following opposition refusal to join in a coalition with the former Communists.

Socialist Party Chief Alexander Likov told a Thursday night news conference that his party is reluctant to go it alone, even though it is expected to win an absolute majority in Sunday's second round of voting for parliament.

"The Socialists won the largest share of the seats decided in last Sunday's first round."

Likov called for a government of national consensus to lead Bulgaria out of its current economic crisis.

"We think democracy in Bulgaria now needs all political forces" to unite toward resolving national problems, he said. "We see the other parties as political opponents but we also see them as political partners."

Prime Minister Andrei Luka-

nov, considered the best qualified man to head a new cabinet, has made clear he will not take the job if other parties refuse to join in the government.

But Zhelev Zhelev, leader of the 16-party Union of Democratic Forces said his opposition alliance does not want to enter any coalition with the Socialists, who are largely former members of the Communist Party. Instead, he said he favours a government of "component people and experts."

"We propose the formation of a government run by competent persons that could rely on political support from the main forces," he told a news conference.

He also indicated that his alliance was reluctant to join in a ruling coalition, saying: "It would be unjust and unfair to us... to shoulder the burden of the disastrous economic situation for which we are not to blame."

Czech party leader temporarily suspended

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — The People's Party, one of three in a Christian Democrat alliance that fared poorly in last weekend's elections, suspended its chairman Thursday for alleged links to the old secret police.

Ther conservative party also formally declined to join the new coalition government being formed by incumbent ex-Communist Prime Minister Marian Calfa. A second alliance member, the Christian Democratic movement, refused Tuesday to

take part in the coalition.

President Vaclav Havel's Civic Forum and its Slovak ally, Public Against Violence, won 170 of the 300 seats in the national parliament in the elections, the first free vote in Czechoslovakia in 44 years, but the parties fell short of the three-fifths majority needed to win key constitutional changes alone.

Bartonek's suspension will remain in force until the party's national conference in September. At the latest, People's Party officials told at news conference.

Harvard threatens to cancel 1992 AIDS meeting

BOSTON (AP) — Harvard University said Thursday it will cancel the annual international AIDS conference in 1992 unless the United States removes travel restrictions on people infected with the AIDS virus.

The university is scheduled to be host of the meeting, the principal forum for presenting scientific information on the fight against the disease.

Many groups have protested U.S. policy that makes AIDS infection one of several contagious diseases for which foreigners can be barred from the country. Almost 100 organisations are boycotting this year's meeting, scheduled to begin next week in San Francisco.

"We don't believe we can host a conference dedicated to the elimination of AIDS to which people with AIDS cannot freely travel," said Harvard's Alan Fein, director of the 1992 meeting. "A conference that was held under these circumstances would be so contentious and ineffective that it would render it not very productive."

Dr. Max Essex, chairman of the Harvard AIDS Institute, disclosed the threatened withdrawal from the meeting in a letter to Dr. Lars Kallings of the Swedish Ministry of Health, who is president of the International AIDS Society.

"Unless it becomes clear that the restrictions will be lifted

shortly, we will withdraw as sponsor for the next U.S.-based meeting and cancel the conference scheduled for Boston in 1992," Essex wrote.

While Harvard did not set a specific deadline, Fein said it will scrap the meeting unless it sees an indication of "swift movement" by Congress or the administration to eliminate the travel restrictions.

The U.S. Senate three years ago ordered the U.S. Public Health Service to add infection by the AIDS virus to the list of diseases, including leprosy and tuberculosis, that may bar foreigners from admission to the country.

In response to an outcry against the rule, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service announced a waiver policy that allows people infected with the virus to stay in the United States up to 30 days for business, conferences, medical treatment or family visits. The policy eliminated the requirement of permanent identifying marks on their passports.

In April, it said it would issue 10-day visas for those coming to this country for professional or scientific conferences. Those applying do not have to say whether they are infected with the AIDS virus.

"We have been trying our best, as have a lot of others, to see

some sign that our federal government will change its policy," Essex said in an interview. "But after talking to everybody we could find who would talk to us, we came to the conclusion reluctantly that there is not a lot of action occurring."

He said the International AIDS Society will decide during the San Francisco meeting whether to try to relocate the 1992 meeting or cancel it.

Whether the meeting could be held elsewhere else is unclear. Fein said it would be difficult for another institution to put together a meeting with only two years' planning. He said that Boston's major convention hall and 8,000 hotel rooms were reserved a year ago.

Dr. Robert M. Wachter of the University of California, San Francisco, programme director of the San Francisco meeting, said that even though the travel restrictions have eased considerably, he still considers them to be unacceptable and discriminatory.

"They (Harvard) have laid their cards on the table," said Wachter. "We agree."

The announced boycott is expected to have little effect on the scientific reports at the San Francisco meeting. Few presentations have been withdrawn, and 12,000 people are expected.

The 1991 AIDS meeting will be held in Florence, Italy.

Soviets make new nuclear arms offer

BRUSSELS (R) — The Soviet Union has offered to remove all short-range nuclear weapons from Europe in early talks with the West, NATO sources said Friday.

The offer was made to the United States, which supplies NATO's short-range nuclear forces (SNF), and is almost certain to be rejected by the Western alliance, the sources added.

NATO has said it will start talks on the issue only after a Vienna agreement on slashing conventional forces in Europe CFE is signed, probably by the end of this year.

Moscow said it wanted to start talks in September or October, independently of CFE, that would aim to eliminate all ground-based missiles, nuclear artillery and nuclear bombs from the continent. The Soviet Union has a 14-fold superiority in such weapons, the sources said.

NATO has not yet agreed how far the reductions in SNF, which have a range of less than 500 kilometres, should go.

The alliance had hoped that a mandate for SNF negotiations would be ready by next month's London summit of NATO's 16 leaders, but diplomats say this is now unlikely.

One NATO diplomat said the Soviet Union seemed to have made the offer with West Germany in mind.

Most of the alliance's SNF are based there, as the country was NATO's frontline during the cold war, and the weapons would almost certainly be used on German soil.

"West Germany has got elections in December and there is pretty strong anti-nuclear sentiment there — which is growing as we head for unification," he said. "The Soviets obviously want to get rid of nuclear weapons in Germany."

Observations show what may be black hole sucking in stars

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — Scientists say they have made the most detailed look at the centre of the Milky Way galaxy and found what appears to be a massive black hole gobbling up one star every 5,000 to 10,000 years.

Computer-generated pictures released Wednesday at an American Astronomical Society meeting show an object one million times the size of the sun that seems to be spinning off what appears to be clusters of gas, said Northwestern University astronomer Farhad Yusef-Zadeh.

"This is the most detailed look at the centre of our galaxy, and it is similar, in a scaled-down version, to what we expect to see in the nuclei of active galaxies," said Yusef-Zadeh in a telephone interview. "Super-massive black holes are believed to be imbedded at the centre of these galaxies."

A black hole is believed to be an imploded star, a massive ob-

Blast damages U.K. army buildings in W. Germany

BONN (R) — An explosion damaged buildings used by the British army in West Germany Thursday but no one was injured, an army spokesman said.

A "terrorist device" exploded just after 5 p.m. (1500GMT) and damaged a classroom and changing rooms at an army training centre in the north German town Hameln, he said.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

The base at Hameln is used mostly by British army Royal Engineers but also by troops from other countries, most recently the Netherlands.

Two weeks ago the Irish Republican Army (IRA) shot dead a British soldier in Dortmund, West Germany — the latest in a series of attacks against British forces on mainland Europe.

"While British troops remain in Ireland such attacks will con-

tinue," said the IRA, which is fighting to unite the British province of Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic.

A week earlier IRA gunmen killed two Australian tourists they mistook for British soldiers in Roermond, a small town in the Netherlands just across the border from West Germany.

"We understand it could have been Semtex or something of that kind," a spokeswoman for the British army of the Rhine in Hameln said of the explosive device.

Semtex is a Czechoslovak-made plastic explosive commonly used by guerrilla groups including the IRA.

She said it caused severe damage to one side of the classroom building, which was in the middle of the British army's training ground beside a main road.

Tamils kill 23 Sri Lankan police as offensive continues

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels shot dead 23 policemen they captured in a five-day old onslaught in northern Sri Lanka, military officials said in Colombo Friday.

They said the rebel offensive, which has killed up to 300 people, showed no signs of diminishing and reported fresh attacks at two army posts. The military had already reported 90 other police killed by Tamils in violence this week.

They said the rebels also appeared to be preparing to assault an army base in a 16th century fort in the northern city of Jaffna.

The officials said the policemen were shot dead after rebels captured a police post in Kinniyai district near the major east coast port of Trincomalee Thursday night.

Sixty policemen were taken prisoner and 23 of them were later lined up and slaughtered, the official said, quoting one policeman who managed to escape.

There was no indication of the fate of the rest.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighting for an independent state for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, have captured more than 800 policemen and 20 police posts since launching their latest offensive last Monday.

The officials in Colombo said the Tigers had also attacked two army posts in the north and east early Friday but there were no reports of casualties.

Military sources said the Tigers had also surrounded Jaffna Fort built by Dutch colonial rulers. They were digging trenches and appeared to be preparing for an assault.

The army has sent reinforcements to the north to battle the Tiger assault but so far there has been no indication they have had much impact.

Military authorities Thursday appealed for doctors to volunteer to staff hospitals in the battle zones. They said casualty surgeons and anaesthetists were particularly needed.

Latoya Jackson beaten up by gang in Rome hotel

LONDON (R) — American singer Latoya Jackson, sister of pop superstar Michael Jackson, was beaten up by a gang armed with metal pipes who broke into her Rome hotel suite, her manager said Friday. Jackson, 31, was badly bruised in the attack and is resting at her London home where she returned after the incident, her manager Jack Gordon told Reuters. Gordon said by telephone from the star's apartment he believed the attackers had been trying to abduct her. A group of men carrying metal pipes entered Jackson's hotel suite in the early hours of Tuesday after she called for room service, he said, declining to give any more details. The injured singer has been besieged by journalists after a reporter caught sight of her Wednesday. Jackson, who spoke briefly to Reuters, said she had been unable to leave her apartment to see a doctor because of the media presence outside.

Wives of Swedish players to help fight loneliness

GENOVA (R) — The wives and girlfriends of Sweden's World Cup footballers are flying in Friday for a week-long visit aimed at fighting the so-called loneliness factor. But the wives will not be staying in the plush seaside hotel in the resort of Camogli where their men are based during the World Cup. "I really don't know when we are going to see them. I guess we'll have to sneak over to their place one night," said smiling Ajax striker Stefan Pettersson Thursday.

Italy is right place for new World Cup fashion

ROME (R) — If you are going to launch a new soccer fashion, Italy is the place to do it. The last time the World Cup finals were held in Italy in 1934, players bounded around in voluminous: cotton shorts and cumbersome, ankle-high boots. In the intervening half-century, the length of shorts has gone up and down like a line-man's flag and the materials used now are mostly light and airy synthetics or mixed fabrics. But if the style of shorts has now been standardised, what is now under-nourished certainly has not. The vogue for the 1990 World Cup in Italy — a country so stylish that some fans attend soccer matches looking fit for the opera — is black high-buggers that peep out from under the shorts. Manufacturers say the aim of the shorts, similar to those worn by cyclists, is to support the thighs and help the legs cool when hot and stay warm in cold weather. Several Soviet, Camerounian and other players have taken to the thigh-buggers.

Newly wed Poles may find marriage illegal

WARSAW (R) — Hundreds of newly-wed Poles may find they are not married after all because the officials who carried out the ceremony were not authorised to do so, the Social Democratic Party newspaper Trybuna said. Under a new local government law, autonomous local councils elected in Poland's first fully free elections on May 27 have to authorise local officials. But many of the councils were not aware of the procedure and had yet to do so, Trybuna said. A senior cabinet official said the new local administration law was prepared at the last minute and irregularities in marriages might have occurred. "We will not let anybody be harmed," said Piotr Kowalczyk, head of the Department for Local Councils. "If it turns out that such irregularities might cause inconvenience, parliament will pass a law to put things right."

Thai students end tradition for Freshmen

BANGKOK (R) — Students at a Thai university, fearful of AIDS, have abandoned a tradition of taking Freshmen to prostitutes. The students union of northeastern Khon Kaen University ordered students not to take Freshmen to brothels after their reception Sunday and instead organised an AIDS lecture, the Nation newspaper reported Wednesday. Latest government figures show Thailand has more than 16,000 HIV-positive cases, the first stage of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

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